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Sarawak

1947



LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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THE SERIES OF COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS which was re-introduced for the year 1946 (after suspension in 1940) is being continued with those relating to 1947.

It is anticipated that the Colonies and Protectorates for which 1947 Reports are being published will, with some additions, be the same as for the previous year (see list on cover page 3).







ANNUAL REPORT

ON

SARAWAK

for the year

1947.

LONDON : HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1949

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PREFACE

This report contains an account of events in Sarawak during 1947.

A report for 1946 was not published as Sarawak did not become a British Colony until the 1st of July, 1946. To give readers some idea of conditions that existed in Sarawak before the war, the effect of the war upon it and the events leading up to the cession of the State to the Crown, a brief account is included as an introduction to Part I of the report.

C. W. DAWSON
Chief Secretary.

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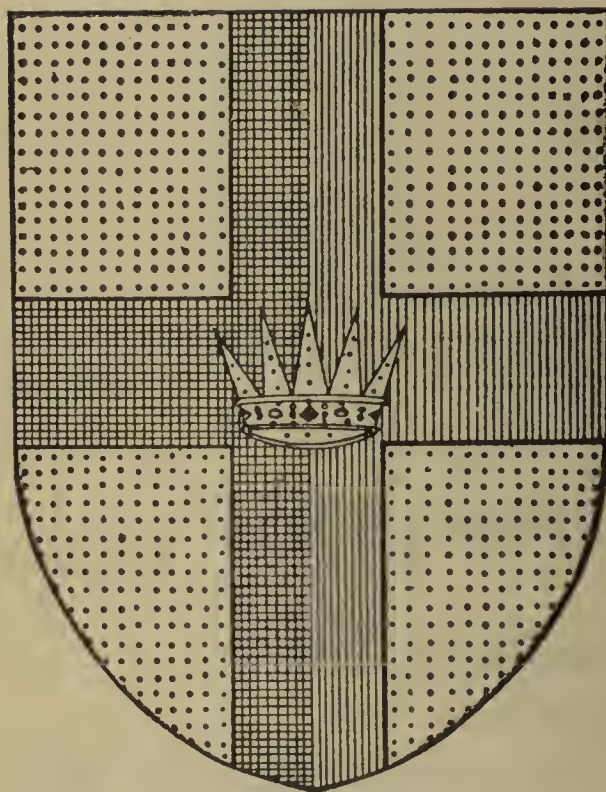
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“On the river at Kuching”

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Arms of the Colony of Sarawak

PART I

Pre-war Sarawak, the effects of the war and the events leading up to Cession

At the outbreak of the war Sarawak had fought its way back from the doldrums of the great slump to a state of comparative affluence for so small a country. Though it was not until 1941 that revenue was restored to the 1929 level, nevertheless revenue was regularly exceeding expenditure, sums were being placed in reserve to meet future contingencies and social services were being gradually improved, though they still fell far below the country's needs.

From the very beginning of the war the State gave all the assistance possible to the Allied War effort. Donations and loans were made by the Government to the Imperial Exchequer totalling £312,000. Local bodies and members of the public contributed generously to various funds. Local defence forces were raised, river patrols and coast watchers were organised and, at the request of the British Government, an aerodrome was constructed, the cost of which was borne by the State.

Some time before the entry of Japan into the war almost all the European women and children were sent to Australia for safety.

It had long been apparent that the oilfields at Miri might be one of the enemy's objectives and during the two months immediately preceding the outbreak of war with Japan much important machinery was dismantled and removed to Singapore in accordance with a pre-arranged plan.

During the week succeeding the declaration of war by Japan the wells and such installations as had not had their machinery removed were blown up by members of the Sarawak Oilfields staff assisted by a small party of Royal Engineers. These persons were evacuated from Miri in S/S "Lipis" and reached Kuching on 14th December, 1941.

The European Government Officers and General Manager

of the oilfields remained behind to help and advise the population and the former surrendered when the Japanese landed early in the morning of 16th December, 1941.

On 19th December, Kuching was raided at about mid-day by seventeen Japanese planes. On the night of 23rd December, 1941, in consequence of information received to the effect that a Japanese fleet was in passage from Miri towards Kuching, the airfield was blown up and parts of various ships and launches were removed in order to deny their use to the enemy. The 2/15 Punjabi Regiment together with units of the Sarawak Constabulary and Sarawak Rangers were concentrated near the airfield but, on it becoming apparent that the Japanese were landing large forces at Kuching, these troops comprising the Kuching garrison retired on Bau and the Dutch border. A Company was left behind at the seventh mile and fought a delaying action with the Japanese until surrounded on 25th December.

The first Japanese troops arrived in Kuching at about 4 p.m. on 24th December and by noon on Christmas Day several thousand men had been landed and, for all practical purposes, the conquest of Sarawak was complete.

From then on until the liberation in September, 1945 conditions throughout the country deteriorated with gathering momentum.

In the matter of devastation Sarawak may perhaps be considered lucky in comparison with her neighbour North Borneo. Extensive damage was done in the north during the re-occupation by the Australian Forces and by air attack. In the Third Division, particularly in the areas bordering the Rejang river, damage was caused during the guerilla fighting, but in the First and Second Divisions property suffered little damage.

As is usually the case the hardships suffered in the towns during the long period of occupation were generally much more severe than in the village areas. This applied particularly to Kuching where there was a large Japanese garrison, with Military Police playing the role that has brought Japanese occupation forces into contempt and hatred everywhere. It was not until September, 1945, that the Australian Forces landed in Kuching and purged the town. The administration was handed over by them to the "British Military Administration" in November.

The difficulties that faced the Military Administration were serious, lack of trained officers being not the least important, but Sarawak was fortunate in that a few experienced officers of the Sarawak Civil Service were serving in the unit. This gave confidence to the people who were not unnaturally in a state of mind which was ready to be suspicious of anything new. Good progress was made during the short period of Military Administration towards the restoration of normal conditions and the re-establishment of health and other essential services.

In April, 1946, H. H. The Rajah returned and resumed the Government of the country. He was accompanied by a few more of the pre-war European Civil Service, but the serious loss of European personnel by internment, murder and war casualties was a handicap which could not be entirely overcome and which will, in fact, be felt for some time to come.

The rest of the year 1946 brought steady improvement in the life of the country in all its aspects. The foundations of the future were laid and reconstruction, though handicapped by shortage of staff and material, was begun. Health and morale immediately began to improve but the mental and physical deterioration caused by the long enemy occupation was such that some time must elapse before it can be completely overcome. A serious wave of crime, mainly theft and robbery, marked the beginning of the year 1946 but was slowly but surely quelled.

Until November, 1941, relations between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and Sarawak were governed by the Agreement concluded with Rajah Brooke in 1888, which placed Sarawak under the protection of the United Kingdom. This Agreement vested in the British Government the power of decision in any question arising in respect of the right of succession to the Raj, and control of Sarawak's foreign relations. It accorded most-favoured-nation treatment to British subjects, commerce and shipping, and provided that the Rajah and his successors should not make any cession or other alienation of any part of Sarawak territory to any foreign State or subjects without the consent of the British Government. Under this Agreement, His Majesty possessed no jurisdiction in Sarawak, and the formal

powers and rights of control of His Majesty's Government were strictly limited.

In the years between the two World Wars it became increasingly apparent that the Agreement of 1888 was inconsistent with His Majesty's Government's responsibilities for Sarawak, and on several occasions His Majesty's Government proposed inviting the Sarawak Government to consider a revision of the existing Agreement, but in the event on each occasion circumstances necessitated the postponement of a formal approach to the Sarawak authorities.

After the outbreak of the late war the late Lord Moyne, at the time Secretary of State for the Colonies, addressed an official despatch in March, 1941 to the British Agent for Sarawak on this subject. Lord Moyne stated that, after considering his position as the person charged with the responsibility of representing the Protecting Power in regard to Sarawak, he had come to the conclusion that the limits imposed by the Agreement of 1888 were unduly restrictive in present times, and that they prevented the Secretary of State for the Colonies from providing himself either with the requisite information about affairs in Sarawak, or with the necessary authority and influence to help and direct the State administration towards the higher standards which were being achieved in Colonies and Protectorates elsewhere. The British Agent was therefore instructed to seek the consent of the Rajah to the conclusion of a supplementary formal Agreement with His Majesty's Government, providing for the acceptance of a British Resident Adviser. The British Agent for Sarawak accordingly entered into negotiations with the Government of that territory to this end.

In September 1941, whilst these negotiations were in progress, the Rajah enacted a Constitution to mark the Centenary of the rule of the White Rajahs. Previously the internal constitution of the State had been in theory an absolute monarchy (the Constitution Order refers to "Our will and intention to commemorate this centenary year by terminating for ever the era of autocratic rule which has so far characterised our government"). In practice there had come to be associated with the Rajah, as the Supreme Head of the State and the sole legislative and financial authority, various bodies with more or less loosely defined functions. Amongst these were the Supreme Council, established in 1855, and the Council Negri, established in 1867.

The Supreme Council had ceased to hold formal meetings since 1927, and the practice of the Council Negri had been to meet every two or three years to hear an address from the Rajah on the progress of the State since the last meeting. The Constitution of 1941 however vested in the Supreme Council and Council Negri powers approximately equivalent, respectively, to those of the Executive and Legislative Councils of normal colonial constitutions. Generally speaking, the prerogatives of the Rajah were thenceforth to be exercised by the Rajah acting with the advice and consent of the Supreme Council, whilst all legislative and budgetary power was vested in the Rajah acting with the advice and consent of the Council Negri.

The negotiations between the Sarawak Government and the British Agent for Sarawak in 1941 resulted in the conclusion in November of that year of a Supplementary Agreement between His Majesty's Government and the Government of Sarawak. This Agreement provided for the appointment of a British Representative whose advice had to be sought and acted upon on all matters affecting Sarawak's foreign relations or the rights and status of foreign nationals, and on all matters of defence. His services were to be available for consultation and he was to be entitled to offer his opinion on matters touching the general administration of the State. He was to have access to state documents and records concerning matters in respect of which his advice was sought, and to have the right to attend, but not to vote, at meetings of the Supreme Council when such matters were being discussed. He was to have the right to attend, but not to vote, at all meetings of the Council Negri. But in the event there was no time to appoint a British Representative under this Agreement before Sarawak was overrun by the Japanese.

When Sarawak was invaded the Rajah was in Australia. His original intention was to continue the administration of Sarawak affairs from Australia, but in April of 1942, with the concurrence of His Majesty's Government, he appointed instead a Sarawak Commission in London, under the Chairmanship of his brother, the Tuan Muda, to be responsible to the Rajah for the control and administration of Sarawak funds, and to safeguard Sarawak's interests. The Commissioners were selected by the Rajah and held their appointments at his pleasure.

In 1943 and 1944 His Majesty's Government again reviewed the question of Anglo-Sarawak relations, as part of their general survey of the future of the British territories in South East Asia for which the Secretary of State for the Colonies is responsible. In the case of Sarawak they concluded that a fresh Agreement was desirable in order that His Majesty's Government should be in a position to discharge its responsibilities in respect of the territory.

In the summer of 1944 the Secretary of State for the Colonies communicated to the Rajah His Majesty's Government's view that the existing Agreements did not sufficiently provide them with the means of discharging to the full their responsibilities for the policies to be followed in Sarawak's future political, social and economic development, and proposed that discussions should be opened with a view to clarifying the lines on which Anglo-Sarawak relations should develop in the post-war period. At the Rajah's suggestion a preliminary discussion was held at the Colonial Office in October, 1944 at which the Rajah was represented by his brother the Tuan Muda.

Later the Rajah informed the Secretary of State that his brother had for reasons of health asked to be relieved of his office as Chairman of the Sarawak Government Commission, and that after consulting his brother and the Commission he had decided to appoint his nephew, the Rajah Muda, to administer the Government with the advice of the Commission, thus constituting a "Provisional Government of Sarawak" with full powers. His Majesty's Government were advised that they should not accord formal recognition to this body, and did not in fact do so. Its members were therefore regarded merely as the Rajah's representatives for the purpose of continuing the discussions already opened with Captain Bertram Brooke.

Discussions were eventually opened with members of the "Provisional Government of Sarawak" during the first half of 1945. It was made clear that it was not the intention of His Majesty's Government to ask the Government of Sarawak to enter into a binding agreement at that stage, but that they wished to undertake the necessary preparatory work to seek a formula which would be acceptable to both sides and could be embodied in a further Agreement to be negotiated with the Sarawak Government after its restoration in the territory.

The talks had not progressed very far when the Rajah announced that, consequent upon the conclusion of hostilities in the Far East and the liberation of Sarawak, he had decided to re-assume his powers and prerogatives under the 1941 Constitution, thus terminating the appointment of his nephew as "Officer Administering the Government" and also the functions of the "Provisional Government" itself, which the Rajah dismissed.

The Rajah did not in fact form a new "government," but soon after informed the Secretary of State that, having given further study to the proposals, he had come to the conclusion that they did not go far enough. He expressed the view that the continuance of the White Raj was no longer wise or expedient, and stated that he had in mind the cession of the territory to His Majesty in the interests of the native inhabitants themselves.

The Rajah expressed the wish to consult certain of his principal native counsellors in regard to his proposal for the future of his territory, through the intermediary of his personal private secretary, before making any definite proposal to His Majesty's Government. Arrangements were accordingly made for his personal private secretary to visit Sarawak, which was then being administered by the Australian military authorities, accompanied by a senior official of the Colonial Service acting as the Secretary of State's observer. These consultations took place in January, 1946. Although they took the form of meetings of the Sarawak State Councils, the Rajah decided that they should nevertheless be regarded only as exploratory discussions. The resolutions passed at those meetings were not therefore gazetted, and were not regarded as constituting in any sense formal or final agreement of the Councils to the Rajah's proposal. With these and other indications of local opinion, however, the Rajah felt able to make a definite proposal for the cession of his territory to the British Crown. His Majesty's Government informed the Rajah that this proposal would be acceptable to themselves, provided it was agreed to by the Sarawak State Councils upon the Rajah's return to the territory, and subject to the necessary legal and constitutional measures being taken.

Subsequently doubts were expressed in the House of Commons as to whether the Sarawak State Councils, as constituted, were sufficiently representative to ensure that the views of the inhabitants of the territory would be properly

reflected in their decisions on this important question. In agreement with the Rajah, therefore, arrangements were made for Lt. Col. D. R. Rees Williams, M.P. (Labour) and Capt. L. D. Gammans, M.P. (Unionist) to visit Sarawak, to undertake an informal but independent enquiry on behalf of His Majesty's Government for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not the Rajah's proposal was broadly acceptable to the native communities as a whole. The Rajah, accompanied by a Senior official of the Colonial Service who had been appointed to act as the British Representative under the 1941 Agreement, and by a Colonial Office Legal Adviser, arrived in the territory to resume his administration from the military authorities on the 15th April, 1946. The two Members of Parliament arrived in Sarawak on the 2nd May. After an initial public meeting in Kuching with representatives of all communities on the 3rd May, the two Members of Parliament set out on tour. Public meetings were held with representatives of the various communities in several centres.

The two Members reported to His Majesty's Government their conclusion that there was sufficient acquiescent or favourable opinion in the country as a whole to justify the question of cession being brought before the Council Negri of Sarawak, and they strongly urged that there should be no postponement of that action. After considering this report His Majesty's Government informed the Rajah that, in view of the conclusion reached by the two Members of Parliament, His Majesty's Government were able to confirm that the cession would be acceptable to them provided the Sarawak Councils passed the necessary legal and constitutional measures.

The Cession Bill was accordingly submitted to the Council Negri on the 15th May, and on the 17th May was passed by 19 votes to 16. The Instrument of Cession was executed by the Rajah and the Supreme Council, and by the British Representative on behalf of His Majesty, in Kuching on the 21st May. His Majesty's Order in Council bringing that Instrument into force as from the 1st July was made on the 26th June. Sarawak thus became a Colony on the 1st July, 1946.

On the 9th May, previous to the Council Negri Meeting in response to a request from the native communities in Sarawak for a statement of His Majesty's Government's

policy in the event of the cession of the territory, supported by a recommendation from the two Members of Parliament that such a statement should be issued, His Majesty's Government authorised the Rajah to make the following official statement on their behalf:—

“In the event of cession Sarawak would become a Colony and would be administered generally on the same lines as other Colonies within the British Empire. It would not form part of the Malayan Union. Sarawak subjects would become British subjects. The cardinal principles set out in the 1941 Constitution are in general in accord with those which govern the administration of other parts of the Colonial Empire. The Constitution of 1941 would be continued in the first place subject to such amendments as are necessitated by cession. But it would be necessary quite soon to introduce other changes (in particular to provide for the Royal Assent to legislation and for His Majesty's power of disallowance) in order to adapt the Constitution to the new status of Sarawak as part of His Majesty's dominions. As a preliminary to that the Governor of Sarawak would be asked to go into the whole constitutional question with the representatives of the communities and other persons concerned on the spot, with a view to recommending what steps should be taken, at the time when these changes are made, to associate the people of Sarawak with its government and administration on a basis as broadly representative as conditions permit. It is hoped in this way to secure the maximum progressive constitutional development. In all legislative and administrative measures the fullest regard would be paid to the religions and existing rights and customs of the various communities. There is no intention of exploiting the people of the country or its resources, and among the most important objectives would be rehabilitation, improvement of social services and communications, and controlled development of trade and resources with a view to raising the standard of living of the inhabitants.”

On 1st July, 1946, His Excellency the Governor-General of Malaya, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, installed Mr. C. W. Dawson as Acting Governor of Sarawak. In his inaugural

address Mr. Dawson made it clear that the change of Government would not, as had been rumoured, be the signal for drastic changes in the customs of the people at large. This statement and the subsequent conduct of public affairs did much to restore confidence.

Sir Charles Noble Arden Clarke, Kt., C.M.G., was installed as Governor and Commander-in-Chief in October, 1946, and on December 2nd addressed a meeting of the Council Negri. This was the first meeting of the Council to be held since Sarawak became a Crown Colony.

After touching on the past history of the Council, the Governor pointed out that the eventual aim of Colonial policy was self-government and that this would be achieved all the sooner by mutual trust and co-operation between the various races and between the people and their Government. The basis of representation in the Council would be broadened, but changes would only be introduced after full consultation with the people and with the advice and consent of the Council. His Excellency pointed out how timely was the grant of \$5,000,000 from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, which would serve to start the task of development. The supply position showed steady improvement, but the need to grow more food, particularly rice, was still paramount.

Mr. C. W. Dawson, as Acting Governor, had visited many of the outstations and the Governor at once started on an extensive programme of tours covering the whole country.

As the whole basis of Brooke Administration had been unceasing personal contact with the people by the Rajah himself and all his administrative officers the reassurance provided by this proof of the intention of the Government to keep in touch with the people had an excellent effect and allayed the fears that the new administration would be impersonal and remote.

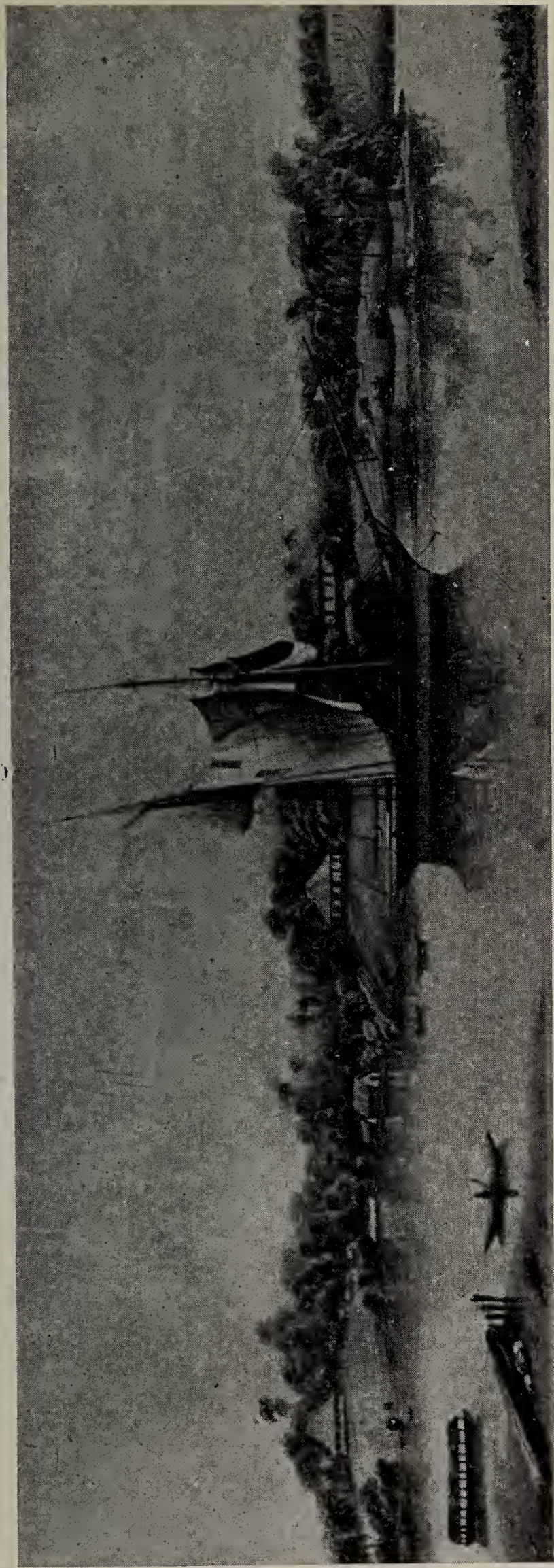
The year 1947

The tasks which faced the Government at the beginning of 1947 were those of rehabilitation and development. Despite the great difficulties imposed by the shortage of equipment and materials and the lack of technical and administrative staff, a great deal has been accomplished. This has only been possible by the untiring efforts of the Government Service, coupled with the earnest desire of the population to



A view of the town of Kuching a hundred years ago.

*Reproduced from a contemporary drawing
by Capt. Bethune, R.N. C.B.*



Kuching as it looked a hundred years ago.

*Reproduced from a contemporary drawing
by L. G. Heath, R.N.*

return to prewar standards and to attain even higher standards in social services.

The Public Works Department carried out a large programme of rehabilitation work, mainly on Government buildings, bridges, roads and wharves. The experience of the past year has shown, however, that there is a limit to the amount of work that can be undertaken while the present conditions of acute shortage obtain.

Progress has been slower than had been hoped but there have been delays in the delivery of equipment and the lack of technical staff has in many cases been a severe handicap.

The supply position improved steadily during the year. The efforts made by the Supply Department combined with the initiative and resource of the trading community have done much to restore trade to its normal channels. Basic foodstuffs (rice, sugar and flour) continued to be imported on Government procurement, as well as large quantities of textiles, but the rest of the trade returned to normal private enterprise and shops in the larger towns were well stocked with consumer goods. The rationing of all commodities with the exception of rice and padi ceased during 1947. Thanks to the good offices of the British Government a supply of guns and ammunition, urgently needed for the protection of crops from pests such as pigs and deer, was obtained.

The position regarding food became easier. Strenuous efforts were made by the producers, stimulated and aided by the Agricultural Department, to grow more food. The acreage of land planted with padi is more extensive than ever before and the harvest, though some damage was caused by the vagaries of the weather and by pests, is regarded as generally satisfactory. In an effort to stimulate production the Government guaranteed a minimum price for the purchase of padi. It is fully realised that every effort is still needed and will continue to be needed for a long time to come to produce all the foodstuff possible and to satisfy the country's needs in rice.

The aggregate value of the external trade of the Colony for 1947 was \$175,393,280 as compared with \$56,354,765 for the period April to December, 1946, and \$78,415,599 for the year 1940. Exports exceeded imports by \$30,883,870. The recovery of the Colony from the effects of the occupation, already marked at the beginning of 1947, has steadily con-

tinued with the exception of a short period in the middle of 1947 when the price of rubber fell sharply. Exports of petroleum, rubber and sago increased considerably. Many sawmills are back in production and the extraction of timber from the forests is increasing.

The Colony is in a much better financial position than was anticipated a year ago. When the Budget for 1947 was framed a deficit of \$4,606,486 was expected. At the end of the year the Revised Estimates indicated that there would be a surplus of \$1,005,422. This satisfactory result of the year's working has come about, not through failure to expend the monies voted for essential and social services and for rehabilitation, but through the unexpectedly rapid recovery of trade and commerce and the resultant buoyancy of the Colony's revenues, which are derived mainly from Customs dues.

The revised estimate of revenue is \$12,318,383, an excess of \$5 $\frac{3}{4}$ million over the original estimate. Approximately two-thirds of the total revenue is derived from Customs Duties of which nearly a half is from the export duty on rubber. The trade and economy of the country still depend far too much on this single commodity, and the aim of the Agricultural Department is to diversify the agriculture of the Colony. Until this is achieved Sarawak would be hard hit by a slump in rubber.

During the year a Conference was held with North Borneo and Brunei in an attempt to reach, so far as individual economic and trade conditions permitted, a unified tariff for the three territories. The new tariffs were introduced into Sarawak on the 8th of December, 1947, and should produce a substantial increase in revenue. This additional revenue will be needed to meet the increasing demands for improved social services which are deficient and not in accord with modern standards.

In the political field steps were taken to associate the people of Sarawak more closely with their Government and give them a greater say in the management of their own and their country's affairs. This question engaged the close attention of the Government throughout the year. As a result of many discussions and prolonged consideration a

scheme has been drawn up for the development of local Government in Sarawak. As a first step on the long road that leads towards self-Government, District and Divisional Advisory Councils have been established on a representative basis in order to provide a recognised and ready means of consulting the people and enabling them through their representatives to express their views to Government on all matters affecting their welfare and progress. Five Local Authorities each with its own Treasury were established during the year.

Owing to the diversity of races in Sarawak and the different stages of development which they have reached, it is necessary to proceed cautiously in the early stages. If these initial experiments are successful and prove generally acceptable to the people, more Local Authorities will be established. Eventually the scheme will provide a net-work of elected and racially representative local authorities in each District vested by statute with limited executive and financial powers. These will elect representatives to an inter-racial District Advisory Council. From the District Advisory Council members will be elected to the Divisional Council, which in its turn will act as an "electoral college" for the election of unofficial members to the central legislature, the Council Negri, until such time as standards of education and living justify a wider extension of the franchise.

There has been a considerable amount of activity during the year on the part of that section of the Malay Community, centred for the most part in Kuching, who opposed the cession of Sarawak to His Majesty's Government and are still unable to reconcile themselves to the change. Much propaganda has been put about during the year in an attempt to persuade the people against cession but the bulk of the population remains unaffected.

Steps were taken during the year to strengthen the Civil Service. Additional Administrative Officers were appointed; the Staff of the Education Department has been strengthened by the appointment of an Education Adviser, who acts as Director, and of an Education Officer; an officer of the Colonial Medical Service has been appointed Director of Medical and Health Services and assumed duties in July; an experienced police officer from Malaya has been appointed as Commissioner of the Sarawak Constabulary. The shortage

of qualified engineers and surveyors, which persisted up to the end of the year, has delayed action on development schemes. Progress in education has also been held up by the lack of qualified teachers.

A Commission under the Chairmanship of Sir Harry 'Trusted was charged with the task of investigating the question of salaries and other conditions of service of all Government employees in the three Borneo territories. The Commission spent some time in Sarawak studying the problem and hearing evidence. It has completed its task and sent in its report. The recommendations made in the report are receiving consideration and it is hoped that those improvements which it is found practicable to adopt will be implemented shortly.

In the field of future development the first task is to draw up a comprehensive plan related to Sarawak's needs and potentialities, which will cover all objectives of development and welfare expenditure considered to be necessary and desirable over a period of ten years. The scope of this plan will not be limited by the exact amount of the resources estimated to be available; its proposals will be graded in accordance with their relative priority so that the money ultimately found to be available from all sources, that is from revenue and from loans as well as from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, can be devoted to those developments which are agreed to be of the highest importance.

The chief obstacles in the way of formulating and carrying out a balanced and ordered programme of development for Sarawak are the lack of basic information, the lack of staff and the lack of money. In order that an early start might be made, however, with development and welfare work a preliminary short-term plan has been drawn up, which should provide the basic information required before long-term planning can begin, and which should at the same time meet the most urgent of the Colony's needs in a manner which will fit in with the long-term comprehensive plan to be framed subsequently.

Sarawak has had the benefit of visits from a number of experts during the year who have studied local conditions and given practical and helpful advice. They have come from the Colonial Office, the staff of the Governor-General, that

of the Special Commissioner for South East Asia, from the British Council, the United Nations Secretariat and elsewhere. It is in large part due to their assistance that it has been possible to make an early start on development schemes. Sarawak has good reason to be grateful for the personal study of local conditions made by the Secretary of State's advisers, for the sympathetic interest taken in its affairs by the Colonial Office and for the prompt practical and generous measure of assistance it has received not only from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund but in the matter of urgently needed supplies of all kinds and in many other ways.

A population Census, the first of its kind in Sarawak, was successfully carried out in 1947 with financial assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds. The date of final enumeration was the 26th of November 1947 but the statistical analysis and final report will not be ready until late in 1948.

A scheme has also been approved for a survey of the fisheries of Sarawak over a period of two years. The survey is a necessary preliminary to the preparation of plans to help the local fishing industry. The Fishery Survey Officer took a course of training in certain technical aspects of the scheme during 1947 and will commence his work early in 1948.

An aerial topographical survey of certain selected areas was undertaken during 1947. It will be some time before new maps of these areas can be produced but the photographs taken have already proved of considerable assistance to the Lands and Surveys, the Agricultural and Forestry Departments and to those concerned with the development of the mineral resources of the Colony.

A team of experts toured the country investigating all known coal deposits. Coal measures are known to exist, some were in fact exploited in prewar years, but further investigations of their quality, extent and accessibility, was considered to be necessary. It is feared that the coal though of good quality may prove to be too friable for commercial use.

An Admiralty survey was also carried out during the year by H.M.S. Sharpshooter, of the Batang Lupar from its mouth to Lingga and of the Rejang river as far as Sibu. As a direct result of this a cargo ship of 9,000 tons was enabled to enter the Rejang in August and cleared for Australia with a cargo of logs and sawn timber.

Dr. Edmund Leach visited Sarawak from June to October, 1947. During this period he travelled extensively throughout the country making plans for a comprehensive Socio-Economic Survey which will follow later. This survey is of importance in order to ensure that the measures now being taken to improve living conditions do not conflict with, but follow the lines best suited to, the stage of development which the people have reached and to their customary ways of life and thought.

After the liberation of the country from the Japanese at first the Department of Agriculture was grouped with the Land, Survey and Forest Departments and it was not until the 1st of January, 1947, that it again became a separate department. The policy of the Department is that Sarawak's agriculture should be developed for the benefit of the native cultivators themselves; that large specialised plantations should not be allowed to oust the small native farmer working on his own land on a suitable mixed system of farming; that the farmer should grow sufficient food for himself and his family as a guarantee against difficult times and should also have produce for sale. The aim of the Department is also to improve the efficiency of the rubber industry and at the same time make vigorous search for alternative cash crops.

Little agricultural experimental work had been conducted in Sarawak in the past and practically no information had been recorded regarding the agricultural land of the country. The work of the Department during the year has, therefore, been directed in a great measure to the establishment of demonstration and experimental plots and the collection of information by means of a soil survey. Liaison between the Department and influential members of local communities interested in the production, processing and export of rural products has been maintained by an Agricultural Development Board.

Two schemes have been approved for agriculture under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. One of an agricultural survey and the other for rubber development. Preliminary expenditure on a scheme for mechanical cultivation experiments has also been approved.

Good progress has been made on the first stage of the Agricultural Soil Survey scheme which will collate such in-

formation as does exist on a 4 mile to 1 inch outline map. The next stage of the scheme will be to examine in detail the existing and potential wet padi land of the country with a view to possible development for intensive padi production. This stage has been started in some parts of the country.

Under the Rubber Development Scheme, the object of which is to provide the small holder with high yielding planting material for both replanting and new planting one budwood nursery has been established with budwood from a reliable source in North Borneo. Short term demonstrations of sound methods are being arranged on mature rubber, and for the purpose of long term demonstrations small areas will be planted with high yielding material.

The possibility of employing mechanical means to assist in the cultivation of wet padi is being investigated by practical experiments with machines adapted to suit local conditions.

Demonstration plots form the basis of schemes to improve the cultivators' technique. Plots have been operated in season and have on the whole been successful and have aroused considerable interest.

Three Agricultural Stations have been maintained during the year on which investigations in the development of crops other than padi have been carried out. Preliminary observations have also been made in the use of fertilisers and manures.

There is a widespread demand for education throughout the Colony, especially among the large indigenous non-Mohammedan section of the population for whom educational facilities hitherto have been almost entirely lacking. The need for primary schools is obvious and pressing but the teachers are not available.

Free grants totalling nearly \$1 million were approved towards the end of the year under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act to carry out two important educational schemes, namely, the establishment of a teacher training institution and secondary school, and of a long-house or Rural Improvement School for Iban adults.

The teacher training centre and a secondary school are the Colony's most urgent educational requirements, but in view of the expense and delay that would be involved in

the construction of permanent buildings in the present time of shortage of materials and of technicians, both needs are to be met under a single scheme at Batu Lintang, a hutted camp originally constructed as a military camp and used later by the Japanese as an internment camp. This will meet immediate needs at a comparatively low cost and admit of replacement in due course by permanent establishments on a smaller or larger scale when the long-term requirements of the Colony become clearer.

The buildings are now being reconstructed and modified and it is hoped that the institution will be opened in the middle of 1948. Accommodation will be provided for 200 secondary pupils and 100 student teachers, who will have separate dormitories and class rooms.

The Rural Improvement School scheme has been designed to meet the special needs of the large Iban-speaking population, living in the interior of the country, whose educational welfare has in the past been almost completely neglected. If their living conditions are to be improved, it is not sufficient merely to provide primary schools for the children: the adults too must be taught to read and write in their own vernacular, and be educated in elementary hygiene, infant welfare and in improved methods of agriculture and animal husbandry. The present scheme proposes to tackle this problem by selecting 30 young married couples from various long-houses and giving them a two-year course in these practical matters. They will then return to their own communities to spread the new ideas.

The Medical and Health Services have also benefited under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. A free grant of \$670,000 is to be used to provide and maintain, over a period of five years, 18 new mobile and static dispensaries, almost as many as there are in the country at present. Most will be established in those parts of Sarawak which at present lack any form of medical service.

Owing to lack of staff only two dispensaries will be established at once. The training of staff to man and work the remainder is being undertaken. The full scheme will not be achieved until the third year.

It is realised that the medical facilities of the country are sadly inadequate and that general sanitation is very much

below standard. It is probably in this direction that the country suffered most as a result of the war and enemy occupation. There is much leeway to be made up and this will make heavy demands on trained staff and the financial resources of the Colony. Improvements will not be achieved in a short time and will not be generally effective until the educational standard of the people has been raised.

The year has been one of considerable activity but a lot remains to be done. As soon as the immediate difficulties due to the lack of trained staff are overcome, a much greater proportion of the Colony's revenues will be devoted to the steady improvement of the health and education services.

A fuller account of the principal events in Sarawak during 1947 is set out in the following pages.

PART II

CHAPTER 1

Population

In 1939 enumeration of the population of Sarawak was carried out as an emergency measure to introduce a food rationing scheme. The terms of reference for this enumeration were dictated by the demands of the rationing scheme with the result that it was little more than a reasonably accurate count of the people by race. The limited value of this enumeration as a reliable basis for investigation and development had completely disappeared by 1947, not only because of the absence of vital statistics and migration figures during the period of Japanese occupation, but also because considerable movements of population had taken place within the country since 1939. It was therefore decided to conduct a full-scale population census during 1947.

The census was successfully carried out, but the statistical analysis and final report will not be published until late in 1948. The figures quoted below, obtained from the census, are provisional and may vary slightly, but not appreciably, from the final figures to be published in the report.

For the purposes of the Census the Administrative Districts were accepted as the units of enumeration and comparison with 1939. The following table indicates the population enumerated in 1947 and the change which has taken place in numbers since 1939 :—

<i>Administrative District or Municipal Area.</i>	<i>Area in square miles.</i>	<i>Population in 1947.</i>	<i>Change since 1939.</i>	<i>Percentage change since 1939.</i>
Lundu	... 722	9,159	+ 674	+ 8%
Bau	... 335	18,715	— 1,268	— 6%
Serian	... 1,473	47,845	+ 10,983	+ 30%
Kuching Rural	... 913	58,564	+ 8,794	+ 18%
Kuching Municipal	... 5	37,949	+ 3,485	+ 10%
<i>First Division</i>	... 3,448	172,232	+ 22,668	+ 15%

<i>Administrative District or Municipal Area.</i>		<i>Area in square miles.</i>	<i>Population in 1947.</i>	<i>Change since 1939.</i>	<i>Percentage change since 1939.</i>
Simanggang	...	1,736	31,530	+ 2,384	+ 8%
Lubok Antu	...	910	15,264	+ 1,316	+ 9%
Saribas	...	720	24,606	+ 1,457	+ 6%
Kalaka	...	662	21,262	+ 1,580	+ 8%
<i>Second Division</i>	...	4,028	92,662	+ 6,737	+ 8%
Lower Rajang	...	1,835	52,456	+ 4,798	+ 10%
Sibu Rural	...	1,279	40,098	+ 7,753	+ 18%
Sibu Municipal	...	2	9,983		
Kanowit	...	1,592	26,563	+ 3,446	+ 15%
Kapit	...	15,177	32,259	+ 4,187	+ 15%
Oya-Dalat	...	1,020	13,055	+ 1,616	+ 14%
Mukah	...	1,933	21,566	+ 1,661	+ 8%
<i>Third Division</i>	...	22,838	195,980	+ 23,461	+ 14%
Bintulu	...	4,573	21,222	+ 2,705	+ 15%
Miri Rural	...	1,979	11,099	+ 242	+ 1%
Miri Municipal	...	2	10,951		
Baram	...	7,075	20,335	+ 826	+ 4%
<i>Fourth Division</i>	...	13,629	63,607	+ 3,773	+ 6%
Limbang	...	2,129	12,063	— 58	— .5%
Lawas	...	999	9,817	— 805	— 8%
<i>Fifth Division</i>	...	3,128	21,880	— 863	— 4%
SARAWAK	...	47,071	546,361	+ 55,776	+ 11%

Although no statistics of migration are available for the period between the 1939 enumeration and the census of 1947, it is believed that immigration has not accounted for more than 1% of the total increase.

The main indigenous cultural groups in Sarawak may be classified as Sea Dayak (or Iban), Malay, Melanau, Land Dayak, and a last group of other and indeterminated "tribes" comprising Kayans, Kenyahs, Bisayahs, Kedayans, Kelabits, Muruts and many others. The following table indicates the relative importance in numbers of these indigenous people:—

<i>Cultural Group.</i>	<i>Population in 1947.</i>	<i>Change since 1939.</i>	<i>Percentage change since 1939.</i>
Sea Dayak ...	190,387	+ 22,687	+ 13%
Malay ...	97,540	+ 3,612	+ 3%
Melanau ...	35,553		
Land Dayak ...	42,195	+ 5,232	+ 14%
Others * ...	29,754	+ 2,222	+ 8%
Total Indigenous, Census 1947 ...	395,429	+ 33,753	+ 9%

* Includes 1,666 nomadic Punans.

The following table indicates the numerical predominance of the Chinese among the non-indigenous population :—

<i>Cultural Group.</i>	<i>Population in 1947.</i>	<i>Change since 1939.</i>	<i>Percentage change since 1939.</i>
European (including Eurasian) ...	692	— 12	— 2%
Chinese ...	145,119	+ 21,493	+ 17%
Other Asiatic (Arab, Javanese, Indian, Bugis, etc.) ...	5,121	+ 542	+ 12%
Total Non-Indigenous, Census 1947 ...	150,932	+ 22,023	+ 17%

The following table combines all the above-mentioned cultural groups to show the comparative numerical importance of each group as determined by the 1947 census :—

<i>Cultural Group.</i>	<i>Population in 1947.</i>	<i>Percentage of the Total Population.</i>
European ...	692	0.1%
Malay ...	97,540	17.8%
Melanau ...	35,553	6.5%
Sea Dayak ...	190,387	34.9%
Land Dayak ...	42,195	7.7%
Other Indigenous ...	29,754	5.5%
Chinese ...	145,119	26.6%
Other Non-Indigenous Asiatic ...	5,121	0.9%
	546,361.	100.0%

Vital Statistics

The system of registration of births and deaths operating in Sarawak in 1941 was continued in 1947. It cannot be said, however, that this system is effective and accurate except in the larger towns, mainly because of an inadequacy

of staff but also because of weaknesses in the existing legislation. Steps are being taken to revise the law and to provide staff adequate to effect registration throughout the Colony.

The boundary between Sarawak and Dutch Borneo generally follows a long and irregular range of mountains which forms the spine of the Island of Borneo. This mountainous stretch of country is sparsely populated and movement between the two territories is slight being confined to a few traders and some of the local inhabitants who make irregular excursions on hunting and other expeditions. It has not yet been possible fully to record this movement. These remarks apply also to the shorter boundary between Sarawak and North Borneo.

The State of Brunei, on the other hand, is bounded by Sarawak territory on all sides except the sea. There is a very definite and constant movement of people between the two territories, particularly between Kuala Belait in Brunei and Miri in Sarawak, facilitated by a connecting road built by the British Malayan Petroleum Company Limited, which operates in Brunei and in Sarawak through its subsidiary the Sarawak Oilfields, Limited.

Singapore vessels call at Kuching in the First Division; Sarikei, Binatang and Sibu in the Third; and Miri in the Fourth. Registration of migration was recommenced in July 1947 for these three Divisions and is as follows:—

Migration to and from Singapore—July to December inclusive

Race.	First Div.		Third Div.		Fourth Div.		Total for Sarawak.	
	Immig.	Emig.	Immig.	Emig.	Immig.	Emig.	Immig.	Emig.
European	104	67	14	10	49	62	167	139
Malay	71	73	10	9	17	—	98	82
Sea Dayak	24	22	—	—	5	—	29	22
Chinese	1,657	1,558	524	662	409	239	2,590	2,459
Other Asiatic (Non-Indigenous)	78	83	1	17	17	14	96	114
TOTAL	1,934	1,803	549	698	497	315	2,980	2,816



Penghulu Jinggut, Sungei Balleh, near Kapit.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

Movement of Labour

There has been a constant interchange of labour between the oilfields at Miri and Seria (in Brunei) but no statistics are available. Elsewhere the movement of labour has been negligible.

CHAPTER 2

Occupations, Wages, Labour Organization

By far the largest part of the population is engaged in agricultural pursuits. The Sea and Land Dayaks, Kayans and Kenyahs are farmers, employing primitive methods and engaged mainly in planting rice on hillsides which are denuded of their forest, by felling and burning, for the purpose. This is a wasteful method which has done much damage to the country. A remedy is at present being sought. The cash crop of the large majority of these people is rubber and it is rare to find one who does not own a few trees. Fishing and hunting supply the balance of their needs. The Melanaus are a coastal tribe and are mainly engaged in working sago and in fishing. They do not plant a great deal of rice, and depend to a certain extent on sago as did many of the indigenous tribes in the past.

The trade of the country is except for a few European importing firms in the hands of the Chinese. Shops in the bigger towns such as Kuching and Sibü have their branches in the smaller townships, and from these radiate out into the hinterland by means of itinerant traders and trading boats. Many of the shopkeepers are closely connected with, and in some cases financed by, bigger dealers in Singapore.

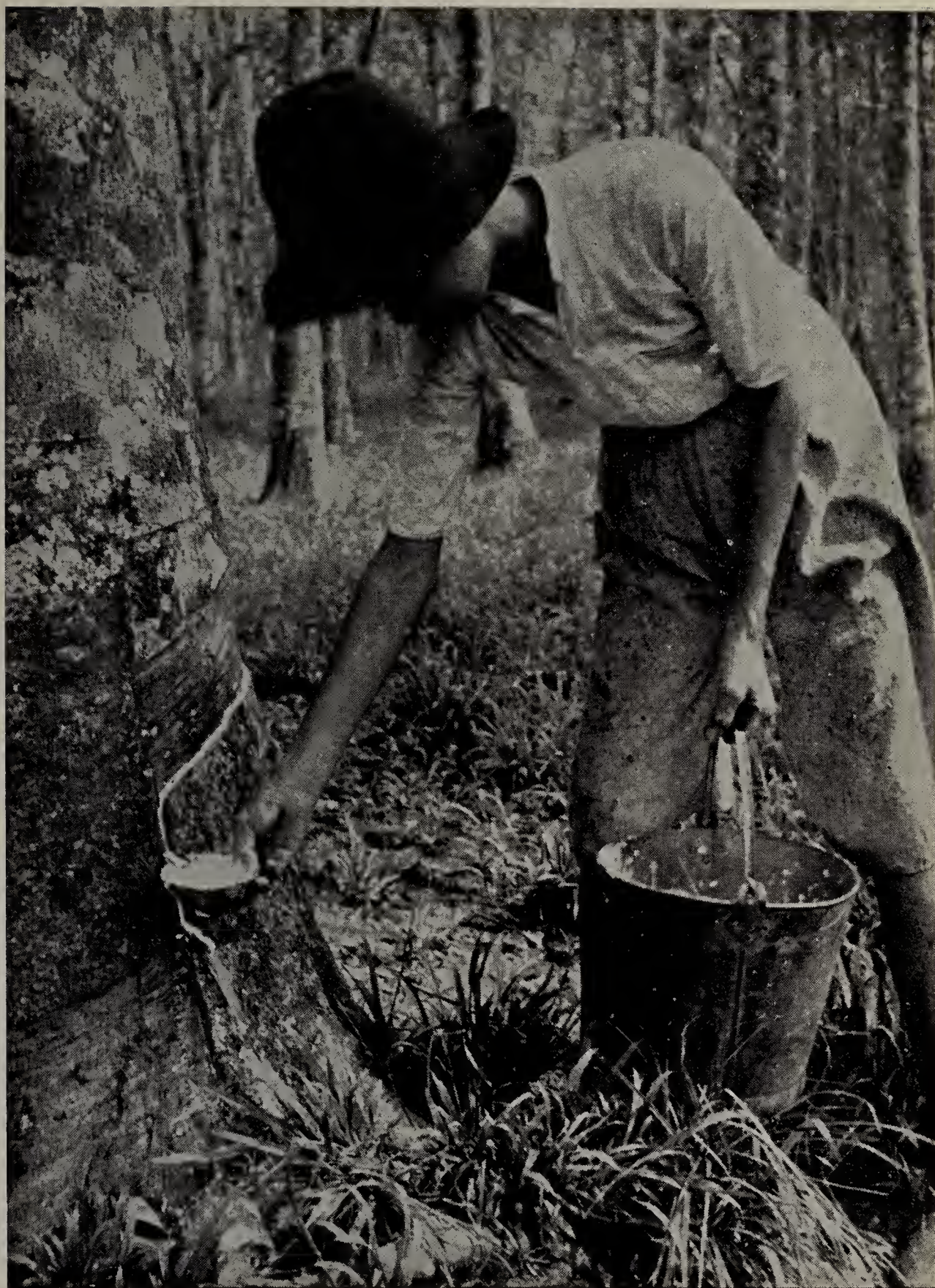
The Chinese are to a large extent rubber planters. They are in complete control of the gold mining industry, and have considerable interests in and a large degree of control of the sago industry. There are several Chinese-owned saw-mills now operating, and small local factories (mostly Chinese) produce matches, pottery, bricks, vermicelli, and a variety of other products.

The only large single employer of labour is the Sarawak Oilfields Limited which employs a total of approximately 1,800 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workmen. Sago production, logging, saw-mills, dock work and the distribution of imported goods make up practically the whole of the rest of the field of organised employment. In the few small towns, Chinese are employed in small workshops as carpenters, blacksmiths and



A Malay woman engaged in weaving.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison



Chinese boy tapping rubber, Sarikei.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

motor mechanics, and as barbers, tailors and general shop employees.

No recent or reliable statistics of wage rates and hours of work are available. Hours of work are generally speaking long. Wages are lower than in Malaya, but taking the cost of living into consideration, do not seem to compare unfavourably.

For some years the Secretary for Chinese Affairs has officiated as "Protector of Labour", and has operated through a Labour Ordinance. District Officers are Deputy Protectors of Labour. A Labour Adviser for the three contiguous territories of Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei was appointed in 1947, but had not yet arrived at the end of the year.

Workers are protected by the Labour Protection Order and the Labour Conventions Order. Provisions of the former give protection in matters of health conditions, the truck, system, dismissal without notice, and agreements to labour; and provide for inspection of places of employment. There is machinery for the making of complaints by labourers to the Protector, who has power to make orders in respect of conditions of work, wages, notice of termination of work and the definition of a day's work, or task. The Labour Conventions Ordinance applies to Sarawak a number of International Conventions dealing with labour, industrial undertakings, and child and female labour. There is no regulated system of inspection of places of employment or system of reporting on inspection, but District Officers regularly visit all important industrial undertakings in their districts and take such action as they think appropriate.

Trade Union Legislation was enacted in 1947, and will shortly come into force. It provides for the appointment of a Registrar of Trade Unions, safeguards their funds in the conventional manner and gives the customary protection to the Unions and their officials against being prosecuted or sued for conspiracy or tort in respect of acts done in the course of a trade dispute.

Factory legislation is dealt with under the Dangerous Machinery Order, but there is at present no legislation dealing with compensation for accidents, or sickness and old age benefits.

CHAPTER 3

Public Finance and Taxation

Revenue and Expenditure

Comparative figures of revenue and expenditure for the nine months to 31st December, 1946, the original Estimates for 1947 and the revised Estimates based on information available at the 1st of March, 1948, are given below :—

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expend- iture.</i>	<i>Surplus.</i>	<i>Deficit.</i>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Actual 1946 (9 months)	5,569,690	6,046,991	—	477,301
Original Estimates, 1947	6,490,870	11,097,356	—	4,606,486
Revised Estimates, 1947	12,318,383	11,312,961	1,005,422	—

It will be observed that when the Budget for 1947 was framed a deficit of \$4,606,486 was anticipated, whereas a surplus of \$1,005,422 is now seen. The revised estimate of expenditure does not differ appreciably from the original estimate and the surplus is due entirely to an increase in revenue, which is expected to exceed the original estimate by \$5,827,513.

Revenue

The main heads of revenue are as follows :—

	<i>Actual 1946. (9 months)</i>	<i>Original Estimate 1947.</i>	<i>Revised Estimate 1947.</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Customs	3,501,459	4,224,000	8,649,795
Licences, taxes, etc. ...	400,322	463,000	711,070
Fees of Court, etc. ...	304,323	115,000	609,929
Land	133,566	350,600	327,505
Posts and Telegraphs ...	256,782	167,000	484,166
Revenue from Government			
Property	317,655	134,400	69,684
Interest	163,970	290,000	370,000

When the original Estimates were prepared there were no reliable statistics available to assist in the framing of estimates. The increase in yield from Customs duties, which accounts for the greater part of the increased revenue, is

attributable mainly to the unexpectedly rapid recovery of sago and rubber from the effects of the Japanese occupation, coupled with an increase in duties on liquor and tobacco.

Expenditure

The main heads of expenditure are as follows :—

	<i>Actual 1946. (9 months)</i>	<i>Original Estimates 1947.</i>	<i>Revised Estimates 1947.</i>
	\$	\$	\$
H. H. the Rajah's Dependents	165,057	140,600	125,821
Agriculture	65,485	217,176	179,026
Constabulary	379,176	597,044	636,477
Education	145,904	275,955	233,320
Lands and Surveys	158,194	349,830	248,642
Marine	86,769	421,540	302,722
Medical and Health	415,484	940,765	947,052
Municipal (Kuching)	151,626	1,019,702	307,574
Pensions and Provident Fund	405,258	1,087,300	1,225,853
Posts and Telegraphs	128,051	310,179	198,990
Public Works Department	434,765	2,161,421	1,651,088
Residents and District Officers	332,913	501,735	601,600
Treasury	839,589	1,097,318	2,359,179
Arrears of Pension, Pay, etc.	1,271,952	—	1,033,318
Unallocated (Stores in transit, etc.)	—	—	320,000

Public Debt

The Colony has no public debt.

Assets and Liabilities

The following figures show the actual position at the 1st of January, 1947 and an estimate of the position at 1st January, 1948 based on the latest figures available for 1947 :—

LIABILITIES

	<i>Actual 1st Jan. 1947.</i>	<i>Revised estimates 1st Jan. 1948.</i>
1. Deposits—Courts, etc.	\$ 280,620.45	\$ 184,000.00
2. Provident Fund	2,377,236.31	2,790,000.00
3. Suspense	1,061,387.46	2,426,705.00
4. Credit Balances :—		
Bouys and Lights Fund,		
Rubber Fund Current a/c.,		
B.M.A. Current a/c., Bal-		
ance of a/c during B.M.A.,		
B.M.A. Supplies, Custodian		
of Property a/c; and other		
Sundry Creditors	10,259,548.88	6,693,462.00

LIABILITIES

	<i>Actual</i> <i>1st Jan. 1947.</i>	<i>Revised</i> <i>estimates</i> <i>1st Jan. 1948.</i>
5. Sir Charles Vyner Brooke Education Fund	428,571.43	428,000.00
6. Revenue Replacement and Contingencies Reserve Fund ...	3,587,000.00	3,587,000.00
7. Balance—Unappropriated Surplus	4,710,179.80	5,715,601.00
	<u>\$22,704,544.33</u>	<u>\$21,824,768.00</u>

ASSETS

1. Brooke Dockyard and Engineering Works—Advance ...	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
2. Investments : British and Colonial Government etc., Securities ...	11,400,605.60	10,394,985.00
Sarawak Electricity Supply Co. Ltd.	262,988.00	262,988.00
3. Cash in Treasuries and with Government Agents ...	1,261,368.92	674,670.00
4. Cash at Banks on Fixed Deposit and on Current a/c ...	4,939,963.94	5,986,650.00
5. Cash in Transit	28,987.25	30,000.00
6. Suspense	216,918.96	71,000.00
7. Stock in hand and in transit ...	3,612,909.08	3,320,000.00
8. Sundry Debtors and Advances	800,804.99	730,475.00
9. Loans	175,997.59	350,000.00
	<u>\$22,704,544.33</u>	<u>\$21,824,768.00</u>

Taxation

The main source of income in the Colony is Customs Imports and Export Duties which comprise approximately two-thirds of the total revenue of the Colony. The estimated figure for 1947 is \$8,649,795.

The next most important head is that of "Licences, Taxes and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified" which includes the revenue obtained by Government from the granting of monopolies for the sale of arrack. The total estimated to be received for 1947 under this head is \$711,070, of which \$391,150 arises from the monopolies referred to.

In the year under review an important item of revenue arose from the sale of stamps to dealers on the issue of the



Chinese making noodles in Sibu. The noodles are originally cut in 20 inch lengths from the dough and are stretched to a length of 3 yards.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

Sarawak stamps overprinted with the Royal Cypher. This totalled no less than \$394,000.

Customs Tariff

A conference was held in Singapore on 26th to 28th July, 1947, with North Borneo and Brunei in an attempt to reach, so far as individual economic and trade conditions permitted, a unified tariff for the three territories. The new tariffs were introduced into Sarawak on the 8th of December, 1947, and in a normal year should produce a substantial increase in revenue.

The Customs Tariff is divided into two parts, namely,

(a) Import Duties which include duties on liquor, tobacco, petroleum and petroleum products, sugar, flour, salt, tea, coffee, tinned meats, soap, cosmetics and perfumery, textiles, matches, musical instruments, cameras, electrical and wireless apparatus, vehicles, timber and furniture.

(b) Export Duties on birds' nests, copra, damar, fish (dried and salted), guano, jelutong, illipe nuts, pepper, sago and rubber.

The main revenue producing items in 1947 were Import Duties on cigarettes and tobacco \$2,197,048, on petroleum products \$279,399, and on alcoholic liquors \$266,477; and Export Duties on rubber \$3,016,869 and on sago \$963,533.

Excise and Stamp Duties

(a) *Excise*. There is no excise duty, as such, in Sarawak, but a fee which is based on excise procedure is levied on the sale of matches manufactured within the Colony.

(b) *Stamp Duties*. Stamp Duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provision of the stamp Ordinance (Chapter 17 of the Revised Edition of the Laws). The principal duties are:—

Affidavits or declaration in writing ...	\$2.00
Agreements or contracts ...	.25
Annuity (instrument creating an annuity) ...	5.00
Bill of Exchange ...	5 cents for every \$100 or part thereof.
Declaration of Trust or Trust Deed	\$3.00

Lease or agreement for a lease or tenancy.	...	Sliding scale.
Mortgage	...	From 10 cents to \$1.00.
Promissory Note	...	5 cents for every \$100 or part thereof.
Receipts	...	3 cents on amounts exceeding \$10.00
Transfer of property	...	Sliding scale.

By reason of the structure of the public accounts, it is not possible to quote figures of revenue arising from this source.

Poll and Hut Tax

The system of Malay hasil (Head Tax) and Dayak Door Tax, has been continued. Such collections, where Native Treasuries have been instituted are, however, paid over to the Native Treasuries in full. The "door" tax is equivalent to what is called "hut" tax in other territories as the "door" is the apartment in a Dayak long-house occupied by a single family. "Head tax" is applicable mainly to Malays and is levied only on adult males. These combined taxes yield an annual revenue of approximately \$75,000.

Income and similar taxes

There is no Income Tax at present.

Estate Duties

The present rates, which yield approximately \$30,000 per annum, are :—

Where the value of the estate

exceeds \$500 but does not exceed \$5,000	...	3 per cent.
„ 5,000 do. 25,000	...	4 do.
„ 25,000 do. 50,000	...	5 do.
„ 50,000 do. 100,000	...	6 do.
„ 100,000 and over	...	8 do.

These rates were under revision at the end of the year.

CHAPTER 4

Currency and Banking

Currency

In order to provide a uniform currency for the invading troops throughout British Borneo, it was decided that upon the re-occupation of the country Malayan Currency should be provided for their use. It was also expected that the Japanese would have withdrawn most of the local currency and replaced this with their own. In the event surprising amounts of local currency re-appeared in the earliest days of the re-occupation.

It was intended that the re-introduction of Sarawak notes should begin when the Civil Government took over but the Cession of the State to the Crown in July, 1946 led to a continuation of the Malayan issue.

The following currencies are legal tender in Sarawak :—

Malayan

Sarawak

British North Borneo (Chartered Company).

There is approximately \$9,000,000 of Malayan currency in circulation and approximately \$6,000,000 of Sarawak pre-occupation currency. Sarawak currency is being slowly withdrawn from circulation and is being replaced by Malayan currency. There is no British North Borneo currency in circulation. Sarawak currency in circulation is amply covered by gilt-edged securities in the London market.

Banking

The Japanese amalgamated all local banks and formed a new Company with increased capital. Upon the re-occupation the position of the Chinese Banks was precarious. Their liquid and floating assets had been largely wasted and their Sarawak currency cash balances and Bank credit with the Yokohama Specie Bank had been exchanged for "banana" money.

In order to provide traders with facilities to transact overseas business, Government granted local credit to the

Chinese Banks against adequate security over buildings and rubber estates, to enable them to finance exports.

The fate of the three small Chinese Trading Banks in Sarawak continues to give some concern. The publication of the Debtor Creditor Legislation and consequent lifting of the moratorium will undoubtedly present these banks with problems of some magnitude in meeting the pressing claims of depositors, while the collection of overdrafts (always a lengthy business) is proceeding. Government aid, either in the form of the opening of a substantial current account or by means of loans secured on the banks' fixed assets may become necessary.

Post Office Savings Bank

The number of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank at the end of 1947 was 2,258 and the amount at credit to depositors was \$727,896.96. During the year deposits amounted to \$546,307.94 which exceeded withdrawals by \$180,547.82.

CHAPTER 5

Commerce

The aggregate value of the external trade of the Colony for 1947 was \$175,393,280 as compared with \$78,415,599 for the year 1940, which is the last year for which complete figures are available. The figure for 1946 (\$56,354,765) only covers the period 15th April to 31st December, 1946, the Civil Government having taken over from the British Military Administration on the 15th April of that year. This total for 1947 is comprised as follows:—

Total Exports	...	\$103,138,575
Total Imports	...	72,254,705

The apparent favourable trade balance of \$30,883,870 for 1947 does not shew a clear picture of the position as exports and re-exports of petroleum account for no less than \$51,225,640 of the total exports.

Crude oil is piped to the refinery in Sarawak from the adjoining territory of Brunei, the value of such imports being \$29,541,206. Crude oil from wells in Sarawak is also treated at the same refinery, and both crude and refined petroleum are included in the total value of exports. If the value of imports and exports resulting from the crude oil won in the territory of Brunei and in Sarawak itself be disregarded, the favourable trade balance for 1947 would be \$9,199,436, computed as follows:—

Total Exports	...	\$51,912,935
Total Imports	...	42,713,499
		<hr/>
		\$9,199,436

While the figure of \$30,883,870 can be regarded as an overstatement of the true trade balance, the figure \$9,199,436 may be regarded as too modest as it does not take into account the production of oil in Sarawak. It is however, a considerable improvement on 1946 as figures included in the following tables will show.

Imports

The declared value of imports for 1947 was \$72,254,705, made up as follows :—

	1947	1946 (April to December)
Foodstuffs	\$16,717,268	\$10,821,959
Textiles, wearing apparel, etc.	6,206,787	2,141,474
Petroleum, crude & refined ...	30,642,644	4,678,106
Tobacco	5,471,098	4,607,344
Manufactured goods & sundries	13,216,908	6,547,209
	<u>\$72,254,705</u>	<u>\$28,796,092</u>

During the whole of 1947 the basic foodstuffs, i.e. rice, sugar and flour, continued to be imported on Government procurement, as well as large quantities of textiles from the United Kingdom and a smaller quantity from Japan. The rest of the trade returned to normal private enterprise and shops in the larger towns became well stocked with consumer goods.

Although the total value of imports rose to the figure of \$72,254,705 compared with only \$32,645,192 in 1940, the quantities imported in almost every case were less than in 1940.

Exports

The f.o.b. value of exports for 1947 (\$103,138,575) was comprised as under :—

	1947	1946 (April to December)
Petroleum, crude and refined	\$51,225,640	\$ 4,168,940
Rubber	26,084,589	19,316,549
Sago Flour	10,598,863	1,105,271
Pepper	3,213,497	859,901
Jelutong	2,707,422	124,304
Various guttas	832,466	38,473
Damar	487,143	122,343
Sundries	7,988,955	1,822,892
	<u>\$103,138,575</u>	<u>\$27,558,673</u>

Compared with 1940, exports of petroleum (crude and refined) rose from 962,792 tons to 1,672,230 tons in 1947, and the declared value per ton was higher.

During the Japanese occupation most of the pepper plantations were abandoned, and the vines were so neglected



Pepper gardener, Sarikei. He is taking off the unripe seeds which must not be allowed to mature on the vine until the latter has reached a certain age.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

that there is even a shortage of planting material. It will be many years before Sarawak pepper production regains its former importance. Owing to the high demand, stocks of pepper which had been hoarded during the Japanese occupation and before, reached the market and were exported at very high values compared with 1940. The pepper-corn can be stored for years and it is a common practice for the Chinese pepper merchant to hoard his stocks when the price falls too low to be profitable.

Despite shortage of materials required in the process production of sago flour was greatly stimulated by good prices, and 39,221 tons were exported as against 23,142 tons in 1940.

There was no export of gold as this industry has been practically at a standstill owing to the high cost of rehabilitation, the low controlled price of gold, the difficulty of obtaining essential materials and the low assay value of the ore. Despite these and other difficulties some mines were about to begin work at the end of the year.

During the course of the year two ships put into the Rejang River to load timber for Australia direct, and one vessel loaded a cargo of firewood for Hong Kong. These are comparatively new trades and are likely to expand.

The firms engaged in the commerce of the Colony fall, roughly speaking, into two main groups :

- (i) the Agency Houses, of which there are few, and
- (ii) the Chinese Merchants, of which there are many.

The Agency Houses are European firms importing from the United Kingdom, Singapore or other countries of the Empire proprietary articles for which they are the sole distributors. These firms hold important agencies as buyers for their own account, but in other cases act more as branch offices of their Principals.

In addition to the sale of goods these firms conduct insurance and other business and also engage in the purchase and export of produce in competition with the Chinese merchants.

The Chinese merchants engage in the wholesale and retail distribution of goods and the purchase of local produce. Some act as agency houses, but on a much smaller scale than do the European firms.

The importation of goods from the United Kingdom and

other distant sources is almost entirely left to the few European firms, but practically the whole trade of the country passes, at some stage or other, through the hands of the Chinese merchants large or small. In the larger towns and bazaars there are some shops which engage solely in the sale of goods for cash, but many combine this with the purchase of rubber and other produce. The sundry goods which they have for sale will include a great variety of oriental foodstuffs: sharks' fins, birdsnests, salted squids, prawn-paste and dried fish which vie with the weird and pungent fruits of the East, spices, and all kinds of vegetables, fresh, dried and preserved.

Since the trade of Sarawak is very closely linked with that of Singapore, comparatively few consignments of goods arrive in the Colony direct from the United Kingdom, Australia or other sources. Most imported goods are drawn from bulk supplies held by Singapore merchants, or from the large Singapore distribution depots. Similarly most of the general produce of the country finds its way to Singapore for sorting, grading, bulking and re-export, although shipments of sago to Europe and rubber to America, are now becoming more frequent.

The more important Chinese shops in the towns are usually linked with firms in Singapore, which keep them supplied with goods and receive their produce. Similarly the Chinese firms in the towns have their associates in up-river and coastal bazaars whom they supply with goods. In return they receive the rubber and jungle produce, which has been obtained by sale or barter. Such jungle produce consists chiefly of rattan cane, damar and various types of guttas. Piquant items such as dragons' blood and ant-eater skins are more interesting than important.

Most of the jungle produce comes from remote districts where the needs of the natives, other than those which they can themselves supply, are very few. The up-river Chinese trader knows how to cater for the whims and fancies of his Dayak customers who may from time to time set their hearts on any object, but have a natural partiality for gold and silver ornaments.

Very little local weaving is now done, so that imported cloth has become a virtual necessity. Apart from this, in some places far from the towns, very little more is really needed by natives than salt and oils for lighting and cooking and

iron for the manufacture of tools and weapons. It is interesting to note, however, how great is the variety of goods normally to be found even in the remotest bazaar. Such are the ramifications of this "small shop" trade.

CHAPTER 6

Production

AGRICULTURE

It is estimated that an area of only approximately 5,100 square miles is at present regularly used for agricultural purposes. The major part of the interior of the Colony is poor variable hill land very thinly populated. Considerable portions of the deltas are deep peat swamp, though there are areas of good padi land on the banks of the main rivers and in certain coastal regions. The best agricultural land of the Colony is in the Fifth Division, in the north-east.

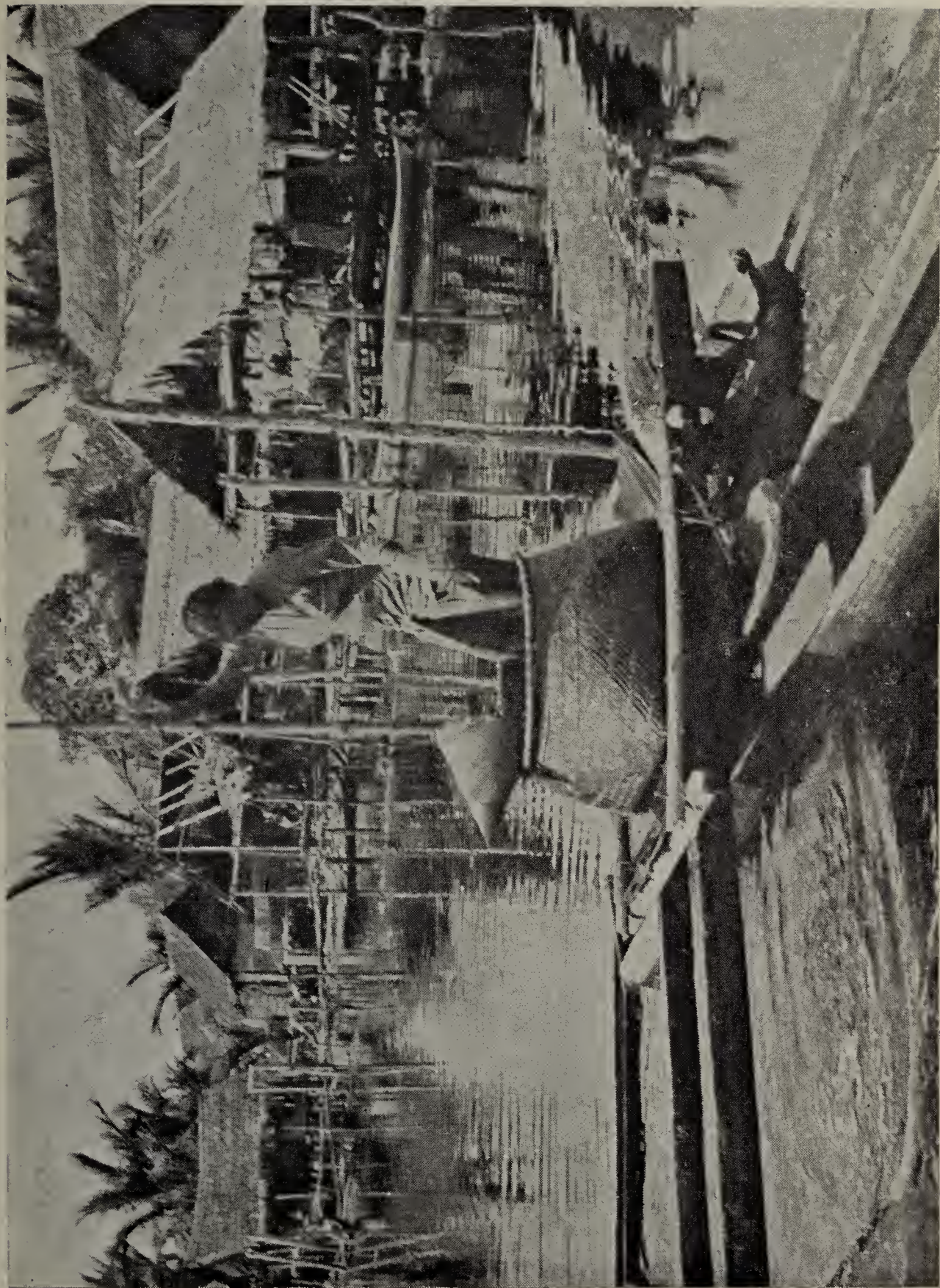
The average annual rainfall for the country is 160 inches; in the south-western part of the country there is a definite period of maximum rainfall (approximately 75 inches in the months of December, January and February); in the north-east there are no pronounced maxima or minima and the distribution of rainfall is far more uniform. Rainfall during 1947 was below average, the months at the beginning of the year being unusually dry.

Apart from five large rubber estates small native farmers are responsible for most of the agriculture of the country. The aim of the Agricultural Department is to improve their standards of cultivation and for this purpose it maintains a number of agricultural stations and demonstration plots.

The chief agricultural products of Sarawak are detailed below :—

(a) *Padi*. This is the main crop though local production of rice only satisfies about half the country's needs. There are few large compact blocks and most of the crop is grown in small scattered patches, both as wet padi and hill padi. The hill padi is grown under a system of long bush fallows chiefly by the Ibans. The technique of the wet padi cultivation is often primitive. Yields on both wet and hill padi are generally low.

Owing to the scattered nature of the cultivation, poor



Preparing sago at Kampong Tian, near Matu.

communications and shortage of staff it is almost impossible to make an accurate estimate but it is believed that there are about 250,000 acres at present planted, divided equally between wet padi and hill padi. Yields for the 1946-47 season were poor due to a dry season. Conditions at planting of the 1947-48 crop were difficult but on the whole the crop promises well.

(b) *Rubber* is the chief tree crop and Sarawak's most important export. It was estimated that there were 239,557 acres under rubber in 1941, of which 10,580 acres were accounted for by five estates. The trees on the small holdings are often poor and the technique of management, tapping and sheet manufacture is generally of a very low standard. The industry made a rapid recovery in 1947 and at the end of the year exports were near pre-war level.

(c) *Sago*. No accurate estimate of the acreage under sago has been made but it is believed to be about 150,000 acres, a major part being concentrated in the Mukah, Oya, and Dalat regions of the Third Division and mainly worked by the Melanaus. Sago flour is an important export and production is at present at a high level. Some anxiety is being felt as to whether the present rate of regeneration and planting can keep pace with the rate of working. The quality of the product has not been uniformly good and steps are to be taken to remedy this.

(d) *Pepper* was an important export product before the war but the gardens were largely abandoned during the Japanese occupation and production is now negligible. Some progress is being made with the rehabilitation of the industry.

(e) *Coconuts* are mainly a smallholder's crop largely confined to the First Division. The total acreage is estimated at 21,000 acres. Some copra and coconut oil are exported.

(f) *Tuba root* (derris) has been cultivated in the past but production and export are now negligible. Planting is being encouraged as there is at present a good demand.

(g) *Gambier* was an important product some years ago but production is now negligible as the demand for this product has fallen off greatly in recent years.

(h) *Pineapples* of high quality and exceptional flavour are produced.

(i) *Tobacco*—small areas are planted by the natives for

their own use. Some years ago a fair quality "wrapper" leaf was produced and steps to restart the industry are being taken.

(j) *Fresh fruit and Vegetables* adequate for local needs are produced near the towns by Chinese market gardeners.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

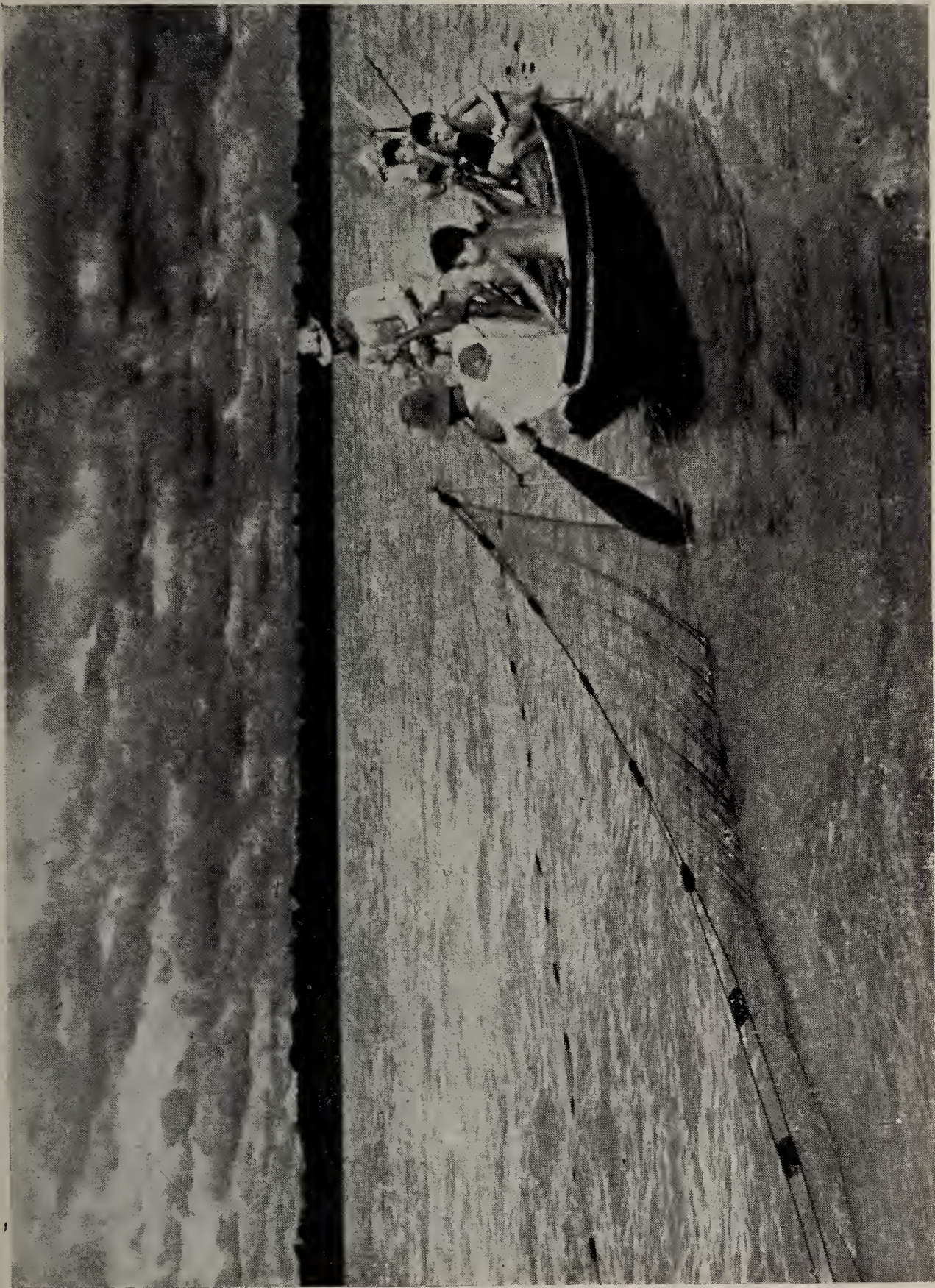
Animal husbandry plays but a small part in Sarawak. Bullocks are rarely seen. Considerable herds of buffaloes are kept in the Fifth Division and are used for meat and for cultivating the wet padi fields but in other parts of the country the number of buffaloes is negligible. Small herds of dairy cows are kept near the towns by Indians. Chinese smallholders keep pigs and poultry for their own use and for the supply of pork and eggs to local markets. Goats are kept to a small extent by the Malays. Poultry for home use are seen in the villages of both Malays and Dayaks. Pigs are always to be found in, and around the villages of Dayaks.

FISHERIES

Fresh water fisheries on a small scale are maintained by Chinese smallholders near the towns. The sea fisheries are mainly coastal and are worked usually by small syndicates. Most of the fishermen are Chinese, Melanaus or Malays.

Despite the fact that there are good fishing grounds in the immediate vicinity of Sarawak, and that many of the people on the coast depend on fishing for their livelihood, the Colony is by no means self-supporting in this most important foodstuff which plays a large part in the national diet. Most of the fishing is carried out by elementary and out-of-date measures, and the methods of drying, curing and marketing are wasteful and inefficient. The improvement of the fishing industry is therefore an important item in the development of the Colony.

As a first step a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme has been approved for a survey of the fisheries of Sarawak over a period of two years. The survey is a necessary preliminary to the preparation of plans to help the fishing industry. The scheme provides not only for a survey of the fisheries in order to gather the basic information lacking, but for practical experiments in the possibility of power methods in Sarawak waters. The possibility of producing fish meal locally both a high grade edible meal and



Melanaus fishing by the "Lenkong" method at Belawai. It is used during the dry season, along the shore.



a lower grade meal for agricultural use, will also be investigated.

The scheme makes provision for a Fisheries Survey Officer, who has been appointed and took a course of training in certain technical aspects during 1947, and for a Master Fisherman who will take charge of the practical side of the investigations.

FORESTRY

The forests of the Colony may be classified as evergreen rain forest and consist of three main types :—

(a) *Mangrove forest* which occurs in the deltas of the main rivers, and produces firewood, charcoal and cutch (tanning extract).

(b) *Inland Swamp (fresh water) forest*.

This is very extensive producing good quality timber and minor produce, the most valuable of which is *jelutong*, a wild latex obtained from *Dyera Lowii* and much in demand in the manufacture of chewing gum.

(c) *Dry or hill forest*—the best type, producing valuable timber, both hardwoods and softwoods, also minor forest produce such as rotans and resins. This type of forest was at one time very extensive, but a large proportion of the more accessible forest has been destroyed by shifting cultivation. The forest products of Sarawak fall under two heads, referred to as major and minor forest produce.

(i) *Major forest produce*. This includes timber and firewood. There are at present no large timber enterprises operating in the Colony and 19 medium sized sawmills supply domestic needs and a surplus for export to neighbouring territories. There is a demand for prime lumber from the United Kingdom and Australia, but any expansion of this trade has been hindered in the past by the inability of the mills to find an outlet for lower grade lumber. China is a potential market but transport and freight are difficulties to be surmounted. Direct shipping communication would be a great incentive to the development of this trade. There are three pilot enterprises operating under European supervision which may lead to the development of an export industry both in sawn timber and in the log with Australia and China.

In 1947, the estimated total production of timber was 1,116,850 cubic feet of which 284,950 cubic feet were

exported. The estimated production of firewood and charcoal (devoted almost entirely to supplying local needs) was 28,019 long tons.

(ii) *Minor forest produce.* The principal minor forest products all of which are exported, are wild rubber (*jelutong*), canes (*rotan*) and resins (*damar*). Of these the most important is *jelutong*. It is collected by crude methods of tapping and coagulated with acetic or phosphoric acid or other substances.

Every three or four years there is a large crop of wild illipe nuts produced by the various *Shorea* Spp. from which is pressed a very valuable vegetable fat used in the manufacture of "cream" for chocolates and of cosmetics. The incidence of the crop is uncertain and its collection often difficult.

In 1947, the production of wild rubbers of all types was 3,907 long tons, canes 745 long tons and resins 1,881 long tons. In addition the illipe nut crop amounted to 7,658 long tons.

There is also a considerable internal trade in roofing thatch (*atap*) and walling (*kajang*) made from the leaves of the *Nipa* palm which is abundant in the coastal swamps.

MINING

The minerals mined in 1947 were gold and oil. The amount of gold won was 429,406 ounces. None of this gold was exported but was deposited with the Financial Secretary pending a decision on the price at which it may be sold. The gold is worked by small Chinese syndicates, mostly from alluvial pockets. The industry is adversely affected by lack of machinery and high labour costs.

Oil is produced in the Fourth Division by Sarawak Oilfields Ltd. on a concession from the Government. It was not until the second quarter of the year that the Company commenced substantial rehabilitation of the Miri Oilfields. Deep boring tests are to be undertaken but there has been delay owing to the lack of special tools.

Coal deposits exist. The Government previously operated a coal mine at Sadong but it has been closed for some years. Investigations have been carried out during 1947 by a team of experts. All known deposits have been examined but it

is not yet known whether any of them, having regard to their quality, extent and accessibility, merit further detailed examination with a view to their exploitation.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

The only major industry in Sarawak is the refining of oil. All the oil produced in Brunei and Sarawak is refined at Lutong in the Fourth Division.

There are a few minor industries such as the manufacture of matches, soap and aerated water and the curing of fish.

Towards the end of the year the Raga Chemical Works were established at Pending near Kuching for the manufacture of acetic acid and alcohol from mangrove and nipah (nipa fruticans) sugar. Experiments are also being made with a view to the possibility of manufacturing high grade varnishes from local damar.

CHAPTER 7

SOCIAL SERVICES

Education

Historical Introduction

A Department of Education was first created in 1924 when a Director was appointed. During the depression of the early thirties, however, the Education vote had to be reduced and the post of Director was abolished. It was not until 1939 that the post of Director was revived and even then the responsibility for the Chinese Schools was the concern of the Chinese Affairs Department. In April 1946, on the resumption of Civil Government after the Japanese occupation, the Education Department was reconstituted by appointing the only available Education Officer to act as Director in charge of all educational services including the Chinese School system.

During the war 17 schools were totally destroyed, and 35 others partially damaged, as a direct result of the fighting. At most other schools furniture and equipment were looted and buildings became dilapidated because little or no attempt was made to carry out necessary repairs. During the four years of Japanese occupation most of the Government Malay Schools continued to function, but attendances were low and attempts to introduce the teaching of the Japanese language met with little success. All the Mission Schools remained closed during occupation and the teaching of English ceased completely. Some of the Chinese Schools continued, but enrolments were much smaller than in pre-war days.

On the arrival of the British Military Administration in November, 1945, immediate steps were taken to restore educational services. Government Schools and the Teacher-training College were re-opened, the work of the larger Mission urban schools was resumed and the Chinese Schools were re-equipped with commendable rapidity. The work of rehabilitation continued successfully under the Civil Government during 1946, and by the end of the year 73 Government Schools, 30 Mission Schools, 3 Private Schools and 173

Chinese Schools were functioning. The total enrolment at these schools at the end of 1946 was 28,171 compared with 22,344 in 1941.

Administration

During 1947 an Educational Adviser was appointed and this officer acted as Director for the latter half of the year. The senior staff was further strengthened by the appointment of a second Education Officer, and two Chinese Inspectors were responsible for the supervision of Chinese Schools. Unfortunately the inspection of Government Schools became less efficient because the only Malay Visiting Teacher resigned early in the year. Shortage of staff permitted of only a few short visits being paid to Mission Schools. District Officers of the Administrative Service visited and reported on all types of schools as frequently as their normal administrative duties allowed. "The Schools Ordinance, 1946", which came into operation at the beginning of 1947, consolidated and amended the law relating to Schools.

Finance

In the 1947 Estimates a sum of \$262,395 (£30,612) was allocated to the Education Department in respect of personal emoluments and recurrent expenditure. This allocation was just under 4% of the Colony's estimated total expenditure under these heads. A further sum of \$63,560 (£7,415) was made available towards the cost of rehabilitation of schools. Although accurate figures were not available it was estimated that the Mission Authorities spent approximately \$172,000 (£20,066), and the Managements of Chinese Schools some \$929,000 (£108,383), on educational services. These amounts were mainly derived from school-fees and "donations," and were additional to Grants-in-Aid paid from Government funds.

Government Schools

In 1946 there were 73 Government (Malay) Schools with 146 teachers and 5,655 pupils. At the end of 1947 there were 72 Government Schools staffed by 109 Government Teachers with a total enrolment of 4,416. This discouraging decrease in the number of teachers and pupils was the result of "anti-cession" feeling which was particularly strong amongst Malay teachers. 87 out of 152 Malay teachers resigned and 22 out of 62 Government Malay Schools had

in consequence to be closed. The loss of senior trained teachers and the closing of the only Teacher-training College resulted in a very serious set-back to the progress of education for the Malay community which in the past had been especially favoured in the matter of Government Schools. Prior to the war there was only one Government School for the indigenous peoples, (other than the Malays and Melanaus), who comprise a little over half the population. After the war these peoples demanded education and, by the end of 1947, seventeen Government Schools had been established to meet the urgent requests of the Dayaks, Kenyahs, Kayans and Muruts. Considerable tact has had to be exercised to keep the provision of these new vernacular schools within practical limits. There is available but a small number of teachers with a modicum of education, and the teacher-training schemes described earlier in this Report have not yet begun to bear fruit.

At most of the Government Schools the local people are required to provide and maintain the school buildings, equipment and teachers' quarters. The teachers' salaries and allowances and the cost of equipment such as text-books are met from Government funds. No fees are charged, but the pupils have to provide their own stationery and writing materials. School Committees, with advisory powers, have recently been formed at some of the Government Schools.

The standard of attainment fell considerably during 1947 because schools had largely to be staffed with untrained and inexperienced teachers. The tendency was to concentrate on the basic subjects, and others such as gardening, handwork and physical-training suffered accordingly.

In all the Malay Schools Malay is the medium of instruction. Before the war English was taught as a subject only at the main school in Kuching, but English is now being introduced at other Malay Schools as and when teachers of sufficient ability become available. In non-Malay Schools the local vernacular is the medium, but English, for which there is a keen demand, is being taught in all these schools.

Mission Schools

In 1946 there were 30 Mission Schools with a total enrolment of 4,181. At the end of 1947 there were 58

Mission Schools, staffed by 192 teachers and with an enrolment of 5,087 pupils. Previously the Mission Schools catered mainly for the Chinese children in the large towns, but since the re-occupation there has been considerable expansion, especially under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Mission, of rural schools for the indigenous races.

All the Mission Schools received from the Government grants based on a percentage of staff salaries. During 1947 these grants amounted to \$72,788 (£8,491) compared with \$46,412 (£5,415) in 1946. In order to encourage the establishment of rural schools, the grants paid to these schools were based on a more generous formula than that used for the larger urban schools. Since the war there has been a marked decrease in the number of boarders at the central schools because the increase in the cost of living necessitated the raising of the boarding-fees to as much as \$30.00 (£3 10s) per month.

Post-primary courses were provided at five urban Mission schools, and 43 candidates entered for the Cambridge Junior Certificate Examination at the end of 1947. English is the medium of instruction, and these schools produce practically all the entrants to the junior branches of the Government Service. In the rural Mission schools the vernacular is the medium of instruction, English being taught as a subject.

Chinese Schools

At the end of 1947 there were 192 Chinese schools with 656 teachers and 19,522 pupils. The corresponding figures for 1946 were 173 schools, 592 teachers, and 18,222 pupils. The Chinese Schools are generally conducted by individual Committees; but in Kuching the control of all the Chinese Schools in the town has recently been centralised under one Board of Management.

During 1947 a block grant from Government funds amounting to \$29,844 (£3,481) was paid to 68 Aided Schools with a total mixed enrolment of 11,332.

There are two separate "Junior Middle" Schools, and a further eight schools have combined Primary and Middle departments. The curriculum is almost identical with that followed by schools in China. The Chinese "National Language", Kuo-Yu, is the language of instruction, and English is taught as a subject.

Private Native Schools

At the end of 1947 there were eight Private Native Schools with 18 teachers and 591 pupils. These schools are established and maintained by Committees of the local Malay or Dayak communities; the cost being largely met from fees and contributions. Small grants were paid to these schools during 1947. The curriculum is similar to that approved for Government vernacular schools.

Higher Education

There is no University in Sarawak, but scholarships are provided to enable more promising students to proceed overseas for higher studies. Under these schemes during 1947 there were four medical students, one dental student and four agricultural students attending courses in Singapore and Malaya.

Adult Education

At a number of Chinese Schools and at a few Government and Mission Schools "Night Classes" are organised to enable adults to become literate in their own language, to learn simple arithmetic and, in a few instances, to study English. In Kuching classes are conducted by the Education Department to assist entrants to Government Service whose standard of education is below the minimum required for permanent appointment. These academic classes have been very successful and 32 students reached the requisite standard during 1947. A Shorthand Class has not proved so popular. Literacy Classes are conducted in some of the Prisons by voluntary workers.

Youth Work and Out-of-school Activities

There are several Associations, Clubs and Societies, some conducted by old students of schools, whose object is to foster social, educational and cultural activities. Others provide facilities for games.

Boy Scouts were organised by the former Sarawak Government under a local Association. During 1947 this Association applied for registration with the Imperial Headquarters in London. At the end of the year there were eight groups of Scouts, seven of which were attached to schools, with a membership of 532.

Girl Guides were formed in 1946, and by the end of 1947

two companies of Guides with a membership of 56, and two packs of Brownies with a membership of 48, had been established. These groups are attached to Missions in Kuching.

Development Schemes

Late in 1947 a grant of \$704,806 (£82,228) was approved under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act for the establishment, and maintenance over five years, of a Government teacher-training Centre and a Secondary School in a joint institution. Preliminary arrangements have been made and it is anticipated that this institution will be opened about the middle of 1948.

A further grant of \$275,194 (£32,106) under the same Act was approved for the establishment of a Rural Improvement School, the purpose of which is outlined in Part I of this Report.

Health

ADMINISTRATION

Staff

Since 1938, and until July, 1947, Senior Staff of the Medical and Health Department was seconded from Malaya. It was then decided that the Colony would have its own department with its own personnel. An establishment of a Director, seven Medical Officers, one Lady Medical Officer, two Assistant Medical Officers, a Matron and a Nursing Sister was approved as the senior staff of the department. The Director was appointed and arrived in the Colony in July. Of the two seconded Malayan Officers in the Country, one accepted transfer to Sarawak as did also the Matron.

Recruitment to fill vacancies in the establishment proved very difficult, although prospects seemed brighter as the year closed. At the end of the year senior departmental staff consisted of the Director, one Medical Officer, the Lady Medical Officer, two Assistant Medical Officers and the Matron.

Not the least of the difficulties to be overcome was the recruitment of junior personnel with necessary educational standard to train as dressers to fill the substantial number of vacancies in the establishment. These difficulties were accentuated when recruitment became necessary not only to fill vacancies caused by the Japanese occupation, but also

to provide staff for a travelling dispensaries scheme under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts.

By the end of the year the position with regard to dressers and nurses was reasonably good. There are, however, no European Sanitary Inspectors and only two men with the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. The remaining health inspectors are unqualified and will not be able to obtain the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as they have not the educational qualifications required for the examination. It is hoped to recruit an experienced Health Inspector competent to train the local Inspectors, who would be useful men although not holding the Royal Sanitary Institute certificate.

Legislation

It was not found possible to enact a Public Health Ordinance in 1947. A short ordinance entitled the Prevention of Diseases Ordinance, 1947 was enacted, empowering the Governor in Council to make rules relating to many aspects of public health, and providing for the notification of the five "Convention" diseases.

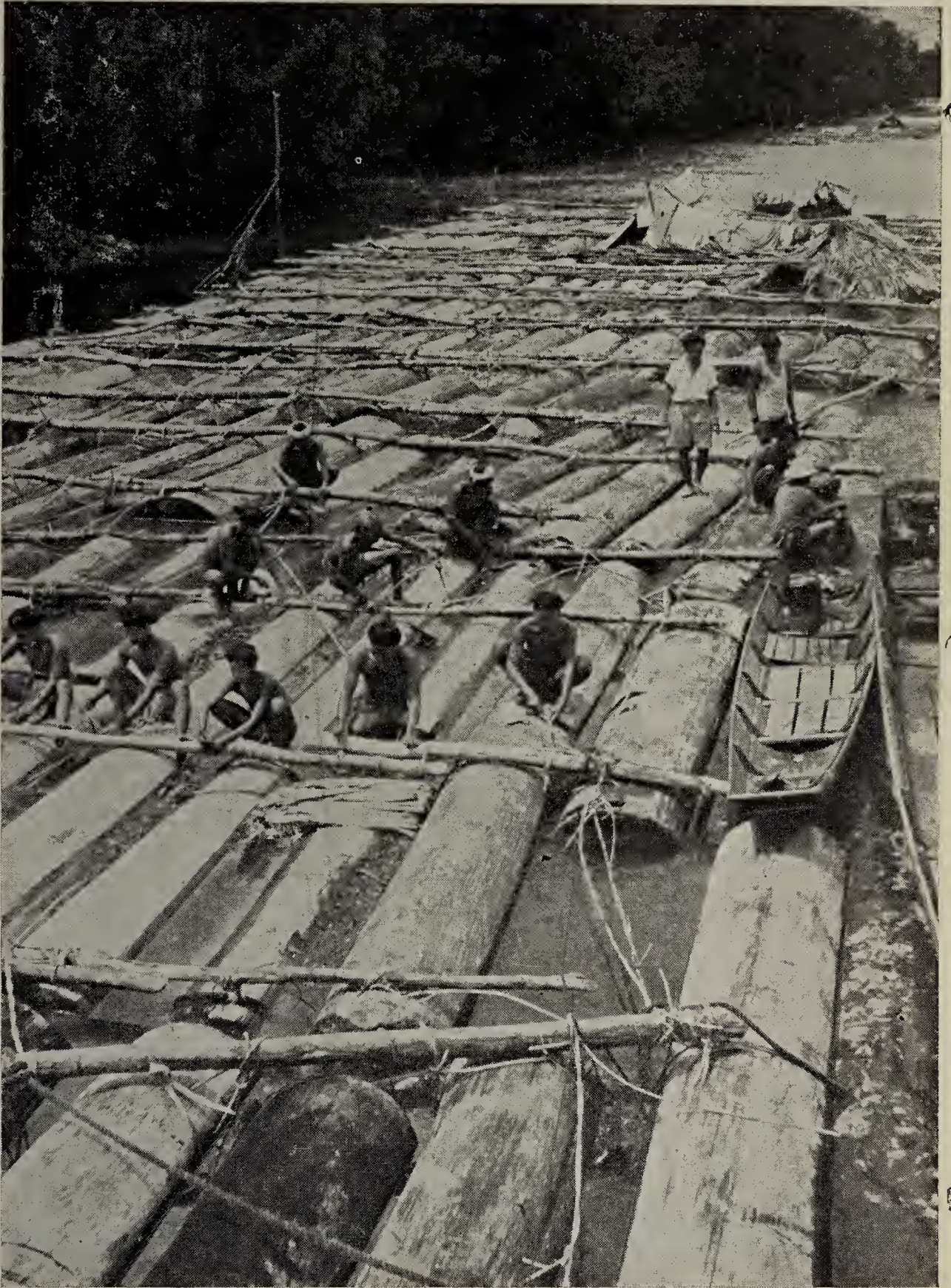
Finance

The expenditure on medical and health services during the year was \$970,258.38, a figure more than double that of the previous year and approximately three times the annual expenditure of the years immediately preceding the Japanese occupation.

ENDEMIC AND OTHER DISEASES

Malaria

A total of 18,182 cases were diagnosed as malaria at the hospitals and outstation dispensaries and the number of deaths attributed to this cause was 104. In most of the malarial cases, however, the diagnosis was not made microscopically and the available figures, therefore, provide no sound basis on which to found any conclusions either as to the incidence of the disease or its relative intensity in various parts of the Colony compared with past years. In 1946, the number of cases reported was 29,507 and, from May to November of that year a serious epidemic of malaria occurred in the coastal districts. During 1947 epidemic conditions did not develop and no alarming incidence was reported from any part of the country.



A Borneo Company log raft from the Upper Rejang awaiting shipment to Australia at Gunong Ayer on the Lower Rejang.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

In June 1947, a Research Scheme (No. R.158) under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts was approved to provide a sum of £20,800 for the carrying out of a malaria Research Survey in the territories of North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei over a period of three years.

With the little accurate information at present available control measures in the Colony were based on the following :—

- (a) Coastal Malaria—Control of *A. sundiacus*,
- (b) Malaria in the Inland Plain e.g. Kuching—
Control of *A. umbrosus* and *A. leucosphyrus*
by clearing of cover,
- (c) Malaria in Jungle Areas—Control of fever by
drugs.

In Bintulu and Miri, the coastal towns particularly affected in the 1946 epidemic, anti malaria organisations were set up. That in Miri was a fairly elaborate one and was the result of combined effort on the part of the Government and the Sarawak Oilfields Limited, anti-larval measures being combined with control by suppressive drugs.

It is difficult to assess the efficacy of these measures as they were initiated when there was a falling incidence of the disease. Nevertheless the expected rise in incidence towards the end of the year did not eventuate.

Tuberculosis

The number of cases of tuberculosis reported during the year was 1,090 and 211 deaths were attributed to this cause. The majority of these cases were of the pulmonary form.

There can be little doubt that tuberculosis is much more prevalent and widespread than the figures available indicate, but information is incomplete. The shophouses of the towns are favourable to the spread of the disease and so, too, are the Dayak "long houses" where large numbers of persons live a life of close contact under a single roof.

At present little can be done to combat the infection in the absence of adequate sanitary staff and in face of the unsatisfactory living conditions and insanitary habits of large sections of the people.

Leprosy

All cases diagnosed during the year were segregated in the Leper Settlement, the population of which, when the year

closed, was 352 as compared with 289 at the end of 1946. These figures do not indicate an increased incidence but rather increased activity in the outstation dispensaries in picking up cases ignored during the occupation years. Another factor is, doubtless, wider recognition of the fact that care and treatment are available once more in the Leper Settlement.

Yaws

This infection is widely prevalent in the Colony but especially in the Second Division. As it is more readily diagnosed on clinical grounds than is malaria the figures of cases reported probably give a truer picture of the incidence of this infection. A total of 15,136 cases were diagnosed from all parts of the Colony. Arsenical drugs were used in treatment, and such injections were greatly valued. Nevertheless patients seldom attended frequently enough to effect complete cure.

Venereal Diseases

Such information as is available suggests that although venereal infection is common, the incidence is not unusually high.

Diphtheria

Past records show a substantial incidence of this infection with periodic epidemic increases. The incidence was not unusually high during 1947. 279 cases were reported and of these 149 occurred within the Municipality of Kuching. The number of deaths attributed to diphtheria was 14.

Diagnosed cases are dealt with in the usual manner but there is, as yet, no organised immunisation against the disease.

The Enteric Fevers

A total of 279 cases were recorded but this can give no proper indication of the incidence of these infections.

Dysentery and Diarrhœa

As is to be expected these terms figured largely in the outstation dispensary returns, but there is little information available as to the causative agents.

Helminthiasis

Ascaris infestation is extremely common and so, too, is hookworm infection. The latter is, however, not frequently

diagnosed because of the lack, in the smaller stations, of microscopical aid.

Typhus

There is no record of epidemic typhus having occurred in the country and the few cases of endemic typhus reported in past years appear to have been diagnosed on clinical grounds. No cases were diagnosed during 1947, nevertheless, with the extension of medical and laboratory services it will not be surprising if cases of endemic typhus come to light among the many undifferentiated fevers which are, at present, so readily classified as malaria.

Smallpox, Plague and Cholera

No cases of these major epidemic diseases occurred in the Colony during the year.

Deficiency Diseases

A small number of cases of beri-beri and pellagra were treated in the hospitals but many cases, classified as "debility" were encountered in the Female Outpatient Department in Kuching. It is probable that a deficiency of essential nutrients would be found to be not uncommon were there sufficient staff available to enable more attention to be directed to this important matter.

HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH

The Government operates two hospitals and twenty-two dispensaries. Most of the latter have rest-beds up to a maximum of twelve. The Sarawak Oilfields Limited at Miri operates its own hospital primarily for its employees but also, by arrangement, for the general population.

There are no medical missions in the country but, at a few mission stations outpatient treatment is provided and, at two, inpatients are cared for by nuns who are also qualified nurses.

By arrangement with the Government of Brunei, the State Medical Officer pays a monthly visit to the Limbang dispensary in the Fifth Division of Sarawak and people from this Division may be hospitalised in Brunei Hospital.

General Hospital, Kuching

This is the main hospital of the Colony and is the training

centre. It has 250 beds, which include medical and surgical wards, a maternity ward, a children's ward, a cubicle ward, general ward for tuberculosis cases and wards for the chronic sick.

The Radiological Department is not satisfactory as space is limited and the plant is old and defective. A new plant ordered in 1946 had not arrived by the end of 1947. There is an adequate clinical laboratory in the charge of a Senior Technician which does good work.

Total admissions numbered 5,873 and, of these 3,985 were Chinese. Births in hospital numbered 686, the Chinese accounting for 627.

Although much of the equipment left a great deal to be desired a reasonably high standard of treatment was provided.

The Outpatient Department, Kuching

The male section is attached to the General Hospital while the female section is located in the centre of the town. In both cases accommodation is inadequate. Nevertheless, new attendances at the female section numbered 18,468 and total attendances 34,795, while at the male section 6,480 cases were treated.

Mental Hospital, Kuching

This institution serves the whole Colony. It is unsatisfactory in that it is sited too close to the general hospital in accommodation which is unsuited to the treatment of mental cases as opposed to their restraint. There is accommodation for a hundred patients and there were 79 inmates at the end of the year.

Lau King Hau Hospital, Sibul

This hospital serves the Third Division, the largest and most productive administrative division of the Colony. It has fifty general and maternity beds and, during the year, had 1,689 admissions. New cases attending the outpatient department numbered 24,918 and total attendances were 37,555.

The medical staff was one Assistant Medical Officer and there is no nursing sister.

The operation theatre is badly equipped and there is no X-ray plant. Laboratory facilities are poor and only the simplest procedures are undertaken.

The maternity section did good work, there being 148 births in hospital, with one maternal and seven infant deaths.

Rehabilitation of this hospital is just beginning and will be pressed ahead as additional staff becomes available.

Outstation dispensaries

Twenty-two outstation dispensaries functioned during the the year and attendances were, on the whole, satisfactory. The total number of attendances was 131,344 of which 100,851 were new cases. This is only a slight increase over the previous year's figures.

All dispensaries have a staff of at least one dresser and one attendant. In some, but by no means all, where there are duties which entail travelling, a second dresser is available.

Considerable progress was made during the year towards the improvement of the equipment of outstation dispensaries. Owing to the lack of medical officers supervision of them is difficult and it is a credit to the dressers that, with very few exceptions, their keenness and zeal was of a high order.

Travelling dispensaries (Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme No. D 830)

The low population density in the Colony and the wide dispersal of the people make it inevitable, that in spite of the hospitals and dispensaries already referred to, much of the population is remote from any form of medical service. Thus a plan for the provision of medical aid to remote areas by means of travelling dispensaries was prepared and a sum of \$670,000 was approved from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds to implement the plan.

The scheme is to set up two ordinary outstation dispensaries and sixteen mobile dispensaries. As the population of the country is generally located on the banks of the rivers and streams these latter will be in boats—native type *perahu* powered by outboard motors—and will ply on fixed stretches of river, calling at convenient points on fixed days each week. There will be a dresser in each *perahu*, ordinary out-patient dispensary treatment will be provided and, in addition, the boats will serve as river ambulances.

The first two boats, will be operating early in 1943 but the remainder will not be provided till the third year of the

plan, the intervening period being devoted to training the necessary staff. By the end of the year training had commenced and the first two vessels were being built.

Leper Settlement

This institution is sited thirteen miles from Kuching and although apparently originally designed to accommodate some 400 persons, with 352 inmates at 31st December, 1947, there was some degree of overcrowding.

There are only two permanent buildings, the Hospital and the Administration Block. Two new wooden barrack blocks were erected during the year. The remainder of the Settlement buildings are small houses of native type, many in poor repair.

There is no resident medical staff. The institution is in the charge of a Superintendent, a man with long experience in the department as a dresser. He has with him a small permanent staff of non-lepers, namely, a dresser and a number of attendants.

Bi-weekly visits by medical staff from Kuching and also by the Matron have done much since the liberation of the country to raise the standard of care and treatment in the hospital, to organise the settlement on better lines and to produce a better morale among the inmates who had been sadly neglected during the occupation years.

Inmates are encouraged to cultivate land in the vicinity, and many do so. Others operate small shops and coffee stalls and others are employed in the hospital as menial staff or in general labour.

There is a school, which is fairly well attended but which could be considerably developed, a church, a mosque and a Chinese Temple within the Settlement.

Pauper Camp

The Pauper Camp is sited some twelve miles from Kuching and serves the whole Colony. It has accommodation for one hundred male paupers in four barrack type buildings. The buildings are in poor condition and steps are being taken to improve the Camp and to make the life of the inmates happier.

GENERAL SANITATION

Sewage Disposal

There are no major schemes for the water borne disposal of sewage. In the towns of Kuching, Sibü and Miri a few premises have private septic tank installations. This apart, the bazaar areas of these towns have a bucket nightsoil service. In the congested areas of Kuching there is general absence of sanitary lanes and inadequate access to premises. Until such areas are replanned their sanitary condition will be difficult to improve. Outside the towns, and wherever it is possible, latrines are built over rivers and creeks.

Scavenging

In all the towns and townships refuse removal services are in operation with varying degrees of effectiveness. In Kuching the work is undertaken by the Municipality.

Water Supplies

The most important advance in this regard during the year was the provision of an improved water supply to Sibü. This town draws its water from the Rejang River, which is heavily contaminated. The supply is subjected to precipitation and chlorination and is very satisfactory.

Various other small townships have piped supplies while elsewhere rivers, wells and rain water storage meet the requirements of the population. These latter sources are often contaminated and deserve much attention.

Food

The methods of manufacture of food products and the conditions and storage and sale of food leave much to be desired. Many of the premises are insanitary and many businesses are conducted without regard to the most elementary principles of hygiene. This problem seems likely to remain unsolved until trained sanitary staff is available.

HOUSING

In town areas the trading section of the community lives in two or three storey brick shophouses constructed in rows in the bazaar areas. The ground floor is used for business, and the upper part as living quarters. In some districts the shophouses are turned into tenements, all available space both on the ground floor and upstairs being used as living quarters.

by artisans, labourers, hawkers and others, who prefer to live close to their places of employment. Overcrowding in premises often deficient in ventilation and light may often result. In parts of the old bazaar area of Kuching, the shophouses are back to back with no intervening back lanes; this means that light and air are lacking and conservancy difficult.

Plans have been evolved in the past by the Municipal Authorities to provide back lanes and clear up slum areas. So far two blocks of 30 shophouses have been demolished and the construction of a new bazaar with 192 shophouses completed. It will be sometime, however, before the improvement scheme envisaged for the bazaar area can be completed owing to the present difficulty in obtaining building materials.

In the less developed areas of the Kuching Municipal area there are many buildings with plank walls, leaf attap roofing and earth floor, or plank flooring raised off the ground. These have been erected and are occupied mainly by Chinese squatters paying nominal rental to the owners of the land, or on Government reserves either on temporary permits or without authority. Almost all these huts were erected before building regulations came into force, and the number increased during the Japanese occupation. Sanitation is not satisfactory. A few houses are provided with a piped water supply but many draw water from public standpipes or shallow wells. Proper drains are often absent.

The Municipal and Health authorities in conjunction with the Town Planning Committee have prepared schemes for the clearance of these areas.

In the Malay areas the buildings are usually of timber construction with wooden shingles or leaf attap roofing. The humbler ones may also have leaf attap walling. These buildings are usually raised eight to ten feet off the ground and are fairly airy and well ventilated. Each stands in its own little plot of ground.

Certain sections of Government employees are housed in terrace quarters, some of modern design built of brick or concrete and others of timber.

The higher salaried classes usually own and occupy dwelling houses of masonry or timber standing in their own



Dayak longhouse between Kanowit and Kapit.

compounds. The sanitary conditions are generally satisfactory. European type bungalows are occupied by Government officers, heads of commercial firms and well-to-do Asiatics.

In the larger outstations the types of houses approximate to those found in the Kuching Municipal area. The smaller stations tend towards the use of locally procured materials for house building.

Further inland in the Kayan and Dayak villages can be found the typical communal longhouses of the interior peoples which are in effect rows of from 10 to 60 houses all under one roof. These are of hardwood frames sometimes of immense size and variously furnished with plank walls and hardwood shingle roofs, or with leaf mat and thatch. Water in these areas is taken direct from the rivers and sanitation is of the most primitive type. These long-houses are invariably raised some 10 to 20 feet above the ground (occasionally as much as 40 feet). All refuse goes through the floor and is almost immediately disposed of by the pigs and poultry on the ground below. These upriver villages follow immemorial custom in their construction as their inhabitants do in their way of life, and it is a matter of considerable difficulty to get these rather primitive tribes to change their habits.

Social Welfare

Sarawak has no Social Welfare Department. This does not mean that the Government of Sarawak performs no social welfare work. Government charity votes are operated throughout the Colony by Administrative Officers for the relief of the needy. The Secretary for Chinese Affairs, in addition to his other duties, acts as Protector of women and girls, administers a repatriation vote, and provides Government relief work for indigent Tamil females, who are unwilling to accept repatriation. His activities are not confined to the Chinese community, but extend to all non-indigenous communities. Charitable relief to needy Mohammedans is provided from a trust fund to which the Government contributes. The Government has also for many years maintained a Pauper Institution.

Most of the tribes in the interior of Sarawak lead a Community life. The "long house" system ensures that the

individual incapacitated by illness or accident cannot be ignored or abandoned, and there is, in consequence, little or no destitution among these people. They rarely fail to provide foster parents for orphans and succour for the needy in their midst. This does not mean that their standard of living is anything but low, and relief has frequently to be supplied by the Government on the failure of the padi harvest.

There is a certain amount of destitution among the Chinese. The various Chinese communities have their own Associations which themselves, or with the help of Government, effect some relief within their own communities. Aged destitute males are taken into the Government Pauper Camp near Kuching. In Sibü, the Chinese with the advice of the Roman Catholic Mission and financial assistance from Government have established a Benevolent Society which runs its own nursing home for the indigent and which is doing excellent work. The Mission Churches and Convents care for orphans on a limited scale and run small hospitals and nurseries in certain outstations. The Missions are active in improving social conditions generally, while clubs societies and Youth organisations, such as Boy Scouts and Girl Guides exercise a healthy influence beyond their own circles.

Juvenile delinquency is a problem which is facing the country at present. During the year arrangements were made to house juvenile offenders at a camp made for them on an Agricultural Station in the Third Division and some were kept at the Kuching Dairy Farm. A Boys' Home has recently been established for male juvenile offenders. It is organised on modern reformatory lines.

A branch of the British Red Cross was opened towards the end of 1947 in Kuching, and is organised on all-community lines. The Kuching branch of the Rotary International takes a practical interest in social welfare and has recently set up a Prisoners Aid Organisation.

The question of the care of women and girls has been receiving attention and the Government has invited a senior officer of the Salvation Army in Singapore to visit Sarawak and investigate problems on the spot.

A Social Welfare Advisory Committee has recently been set up to advise on and to consider further extension of social welfare work in the Colony.

CHAPTER 8

Legislation

Any study of present-day legislation in Sarawak will be unfruitful without some acquaintance with the political history of the Colony. Before March 31st, 1941, the Rajah's word was law. On that date he delegated his legislative powers temporarily to the "Committee of Administration" as he had from time to time delegated them to his brother, the Tuan Muda, and senior officers. On September 24th of the same year all legislative power was vested in the Rajah acting with the advice and consent of the Council Negri. However only one meeting of the Council had been held, and only one Bill, the current Supply Bill, had been enacted, before the Japanese invasion occurred.

The next meeting of the Council Negri was held in May, 1946. This Council passed legislation continuing a few of the Military Proclamations and providing for Supply for the remainder of the year, but its most important work was concerned with the Bill authorising the Rajah, with the advice and consent of the Supreme Council, to cede Sarawak to His Majesty. This Bill was passed by a small majority, and an Instrument of Cession was signed.

Thus the modern Sarawak legislature has had to struggle with two innovations at the same time, quite apart from fulfilling its duty of catering for the ordinary needs of the Colony. An unfamiliar constitution has had to be made to work, and laws, which were framed for an independent State, have had to be adapted to the country's new status. As society becomes more complicated, the multiplicity of edicts issued on the personal authority of an autocratic Ruler may lead to confusion. This had been realised and for some years before the war "Orders" had been enacted on conventional lines, but there was still a large field in which the old method held sway.

One of the first tasks of the Council Negri, therefore, was to put the legislative house into order; and at the first meeting held under the new regime an Ordinance was passed appointing the Chief Justice, Dr. R. Y. Hedges, the Commissioner

to prepare a revised edition of the laws. This Council also passed fourteen other Ordinances, none of them of outstanding importance but necessary in order to deal with the post-war situation.

One of the difficulties produced by the "constitution" is that legislative power is vested in an assembly which, owing to distances and difficulties of communication, cannot meet more than about twice a year. This fact must be borne in mind when it is noticed that Sarawak Ordinances sometimes delegate important powers to the Governor in Council, which means the Governor advised by the Supreme Council, the local executive body. It must also be remembered that the 1941 constitution was a novelty. It closed a century of absolute personal rule, so that the delegation of legislative power is not regarded as such an objectionable necessity as it is in sophisticated democracies.

There were two Meetings of the Council Negri, the legislative council of Sarawak, during 1947 at which twenty-two Ordinances in all were enacted. Four of these were directly concerned with the preparation of the revised edition of the Ordinances of the Colony which will be ready for publication early in 1948, and of annual supplements thereto. One, the Revised Edition of the Laws (Repeal of Obsolete Enactments) Ordinance, repealed in full fifty-four obsolete enactments and amended five others. This legislation had been contained in the "Green Book" collection of "Orders" and "Notifications" enacted before 1927 and had long been ripe for abolition.

The Chief Justice, who had been appointed Commissioner for the preparation of the revised edition, found that he could not deal satisfactorily with the miscellaneous enactments relating to public health and the protection of wild animals. Consequently new Ordinances were passed in both these respects, the Prevention of Disease Ordinance being mainly concerned with the notification of diseases and the delegation of wider powers with regard to public health to the Governor in Council so that conventional rules may be introduced bit by bit as circumstances render this practicable. It may be, however, that this legislation will prove inadequate in the near future and will have to be replaced by a comprehensive Public Health Ordinance. At the May Council Negri an Ordinance was passed making special provision with respect to the mining of radio-active minerals.

In December the principal Ordinances passed dealt with the registration of Trade Unions and the regulation of trade disputes, the regulation of "Societies," the thorough overhaul of the Customs laws, and the establishment of "Circuit Courts."

It would be wrong to think that Trade Unions had previously been illegal in Sarawak. In fact several Trade Unions were in existence prior to the Council Negri meeting and were registered as "societies." The new Ordinance transfers their control to a new official, to be styled the Registrar of Trade Unions, safeguards their funds in the conventional manner, and gives the customary protection to the Unions and their officials against being prosecuted or sued for conspiracy or tort in respect of acts done in the course of a trade dispute. Apart from the requirements regarding compulsory registration, the power of supervision given to the Registrar and the retention of a section expressly prohibiting picketing in such numbers as to be calculated to intimidate, the Ordinance is substantially in line with the English law on the subject.

The new Societies Ordinance substitutes a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment in place of the capital sentence for managing an unlawful society but this is by no means its only liberal characteristic. Following the example of Malaya the principle of compulsory registration, accompanied by strict control and supervision, has been abolished though a provision has been retained whereby societies must notify the Registrar of their existence and furnish him with certain basic particulars.

The law relating to the Customs Department, import and export duties, and allied matters, has always been in an unsatisfactory condition in Sarawak. The new Ordinance is comprehensive. While retaining provision for the continuation, temporarily at any rate, of certain practices peculiar to Sarawak notably the rule whereby duty need not be paid until fifteen days after the goods have been delivered to the consignee or shipped for export as the case may be, the new law substantially follows conventional lines.

It has been decided that the time has come to make provision for the Courts of first instance and unlimited jurisdiction in Sarawak to be staffed by qualified lawyers. Consequently the Circuit Courts Ordinance, when it is

brought into operation, will deprive the Resident's Courts, staffed by lay administrative officers, of their civil and criminal jurisdiction under the ordinary law, and will vest it instead in the new Circuit Courts of which there will be one in each half of the Colony. The Resident's Courts will continue to exercise jurisdiction in appeals from Native Courts and also have reserved to them certain quasi-judicial functions, substantially concerned with administrative matters which are vested in them by various Ordinances.

The war-time Defence Regulations still remain in force in theory but have largely become a dead letter. It is intended to revoke them when the necessary peace-time emergency legislation, drafted this year, has been approved. One set of new rules was made under the Defence Regulations during the course of the year, viz: the Defence Regulations (Requisitioning of Rice) Rules, 1947, whereby power was taken to requisition this basic foodstuff in order to ensure its equitable distribution among the local population in the event of a serious shortage occurring.

The Schedules to the Forestry Ordinance, which prescribe inter alia the rates of royalty, were entirely revised as also were the rules made under that Ordinance.

The Defence (Trading with the Enemy) Regulations and the rules thereunder, and the Finance Regulations made under the Finance Regulations Proclamation, were amended or revoked from time to time as the case might be in accordance with Imperial policy.

New Passport Regulations, that is to say regulations concerning the entry and exit of persons to and from the Colony, were made in the second half of the year and are far more comprehensive than their predecessors.

At the end of 1947 local by-laws were revised and re-issued over most of the Colony and for the first time the levying of "assessment" on premises was put on a proper legal basis.

The year can be considered to have been an active one from the legislative point of view. There is an inevitable tendency for administrative reforms to out-run legislative capacity at the present time, and if the current pace is kept up Sarawak will have to legislate more often and more fully than is being done at present. There is still much lee-way to make up before the statute book can be deemed to be in a

satisfactory condition quite apart from the necessity of giving a legal foundation to many of the schemes connected with the Colony's development.

The drafting of the numerous statutes and extensive subsidiary legislation to which reference has been made has been in the hands of a single officer who is also, as Attorney-General, responsible for the conduct of prosecutions throughout the territory and at the same time the only source of legal advice to the government and its various departments. Steps will soon have to be taken to strengthen this department.

CHAPTER 9

Justice, Police and Prisons

Justice

Apart from Imperial legislation, whether by Order in Council or otherwise, Sarawak law is to be found mainly in local Ordinances and native customary law. A revised edition of the Ordinances, has been in course of preparation throughout the year and is nearing completion as the year closes. Additional volumes containing subsidiary legislation will follow. The many indigenous tribes in the Colony have their own customary law or "adat," and in many cases native customs have been embodied in Codes. It is said that some of these codes, especially the Malay Undang-Undang and the Tusun Tunggu (or Code of Sea Dayak (Iban) Customs) are authoritative and are equivalent to statutes, but the extent to which this is so is a matter of some doubt which must eventually be resolved either by the Supreme Court or by legislation. Where Sarawak law is silent, the Courts are required to apply English law "in so far as it is applicable to Sarawak having regard to native customs and local conditions."

Two sets of Courts administer Sarawak law—the ordinary Courts and the Native Courts. Both have civil and criminal jurisdiction. The inferior ordinary courts are to a large extent presided over by native magistrates and native magistrates sit in the lower Native Courts. The superior Native Courts are presided over by Europeans with native advisers. The ordinary courts have the usual powers; in civil cases the litigant has the remedies of damages, injunction and specific performance, and in criminal cases sentences of death, imprisonment, or fine may be passed subject to the usual qualifications and limitations. The Native Courts are chiefly concerned with such matters as claims to untitled land, the preservation of order in the villages, and the protection of women. The two hierarchies of Courts are defined in the Courts Ordinance and the Native Courts Ordinance respectively.

In the past the only qualified judge has been the Chief Justice who constitutes the Supreme Court. When the Circuit Courts Ordinance, 1947, comes into operation there

will be qualified Circuit Judges to whom most of the work of the Residents Courts will be transferred.

During the year under review there were few cases of special interest to European lawyers. A case of unusual interest occurred, however, in which the Supreme Court was called upon to inquire into the extent to which Chinese customary law is applicable in the Colony. The plaintiffs in this action sought proof of a will in solemn form and a declaration that the provisions of the will were invalid, in whole or in part, being contrary to Chinese customary law. On the evidence it was clear that the will must be pronounced valid so far as the formalities of execution were concerned, but the plaintiffs contended that a parent may not dispose of his property by will so as to deprive his sons of their inheritance. He has no power, it was said, to depart materially from the scheme of distribution which would be applicable upon an intestacy, except perhaps in special cases such as where there has been unfilial conduct. In a reserved judgment the Chief Justice held that the Court will apply Chinese customary law only where the custom in question is expressly regulated by a Sarawak Ordinance or by rules made under an Ordinance or where the custom is recognized, either expressly or by necessary implication, in a Sarawak Ordinance. He dealt at some length with two branches of Chinese family law which are affected—matrimonial law and the law of inheritance. It was held that on a proper construction of a local Ordinance the administrator of the estate of a person dying intestate may distribute it according to recognised law or custom (which includes Chinese Customary law), but an executor of a will must distribute the estate according to the terms of the will. The Chief Justice said: "The notion, still held by some Magistrates, that Chinese customary law is part of the law of Sarawak, must be exploded. The Courts cannot extend the field within which Chinese custom is recognised; that is the province of the legislature."

In another case the Supreme Court had to inquire into the validity of a "marriage" according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of Rome when one of the parties was already married in accordance with Hindu custom. It was held that a marriage to be valid under the Church and Civil Marriage Ordinance must be a monogamous union and a person who, according to his own personal law recognised by the laws of the Colony, is already validly married, cannot

contract a valid marriage under the Ordinance.

Police

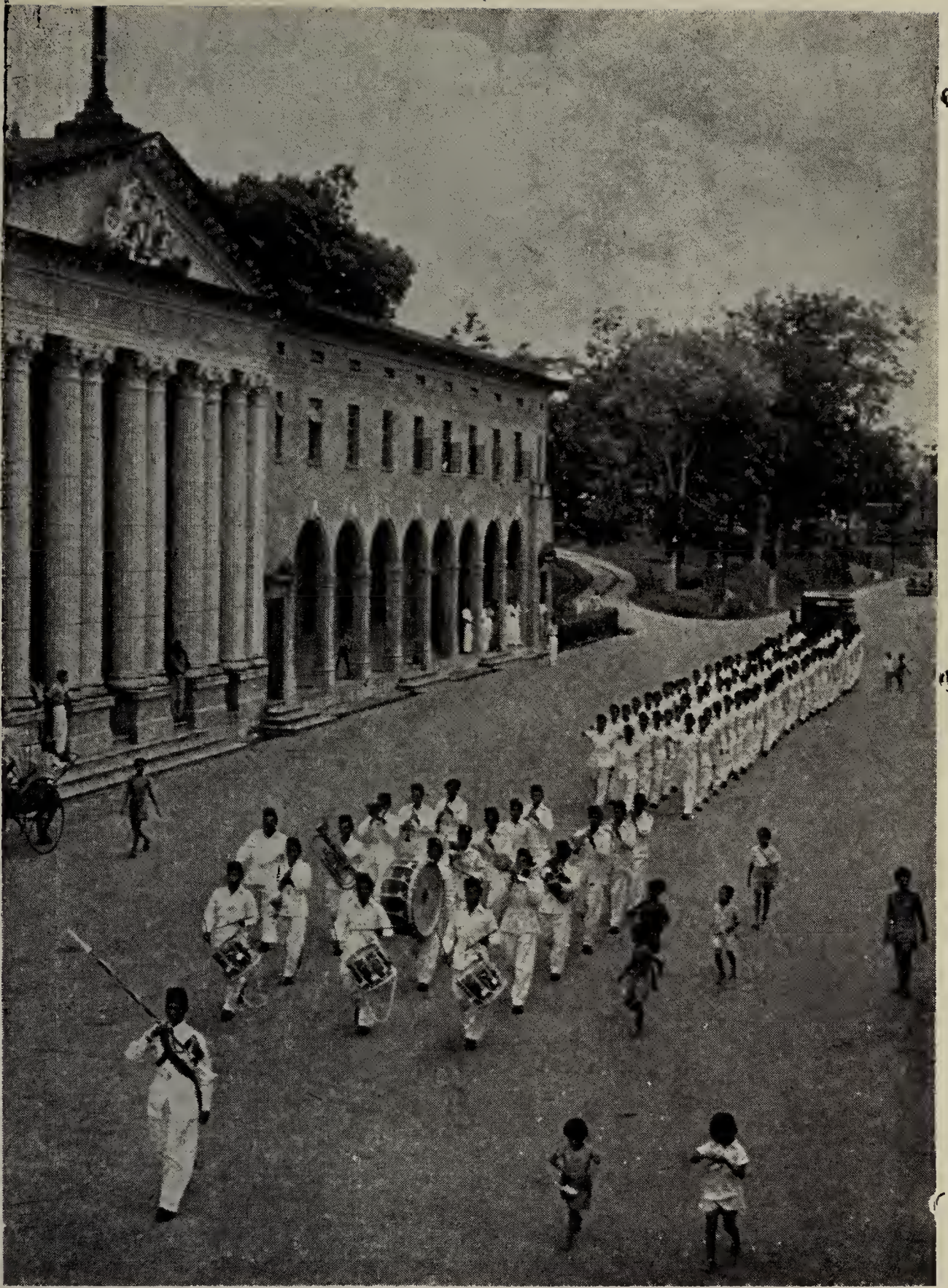
The Sarawak Constabulary Force at the end of 1947 consisted of 6 Gazetted Officers, 18 Inspectors and 1,016 N.C.Os and men; this is somewhat below the approved strength, a shortage which has been a matter of serious concern.

Of the various causes contributing to this, one of the most important was the high rate of "casualties" since the re-occupation. In 1947 there were no less than 82 resignations and the total "casualty" figures exceeded the replacement powers of the Depot, where the instructional staff was itself in the early stages of training. That the service is not regarded as sufficiently attractive is shown by the number of resignations and the difficulty of finding recruits of the right type. It is hoped that revision of the terms of service for the Force will shortly effect a cure of this state of affairs.

As a result of the reorganisation affected during 1946, which meant that the year started with a force in being, it has been possible in the main centres to build up small Criminal Investigation Departments which have given a good account of themselves. It has also been possible to increase the numbers and improve the quality of the Depot Instructional Staff, but this has not yet had time to make itself felt outside the Depot. The Force as a whole is still below a proper standard of efficiency and is likely to remain so for some time. In the meantime, Officers-in-Charge of Sectors have been carrying on with reduced establishments and the results they have achieved are most praiseworthy.

One hundred years ago head-hunting was described as a passion amongst certain of the peoples of Sarawak. This practice, and the piracy with which it was so closely associated, was eventually suppressed and, before the outbreak of World War II, both had become things of the past. Heads still hung in "Long Houses" but they were ancient and smoke-blackened relics.

With the outbreak of war the old passion was aroused and before the Japanese surrendered several hundreds of them had lost their heads in the traditional manner. The passion to kill is more easily kindled than quenched and it would have not been surprising if those who had resumed head-hunting or for the first time experienced the excitement



Mohammedan members of the Sarawak Constabulary, led by their band, returning from the Mosque after their weekly Friday parade.

Photograph by Anna Studio

of it, had been reluctant to cease. But in fact not one case was reported during the year.

That there has, however, been a lessening in the sense of value of human life and a greater tendency to resort to violence than in pre-war years is shown by the increase in the reports of murder recorded, 12 as compared with 8 in 1940, and of robberies, 32 as compared with 4.

No organised gang of robbers is now active and a considerable number of the reports classified as robbery were of a comparatively trivial nature. It is re-assuring to note that firearms are very rarely carried for criminal purposes. Other serious crimes of violence cannot, unfortunately, be compared with those of previous years as Serious and Simple Hurt were previously grouped under one head. The number of aggravated assaults reported, 68, is not a large figure though it would probably show an increase if compared with pre-war years.

As regards offences against property, a considerable improvement is shown as compared with 1946 and 1940 for simple thefts. The decrease in thefts and thefts in dwellings was greatest in the Sibu Sector.

The principal figures are :—

<i>Years</i>	<i>Thefts and thefts in Dwellings</i>	<i>Ratio of convictions to reports</i>
1940 ...	1371	1 to 5.93
1946 ...	1653	1 to 6.52
1947 ...	1036	1 to 4.01
	<i>Housebreakings</i>	
1940 ...	48	1 to 8
1946 ...	97	1 to 7.46
1947 ...	82	1 to 3.41

There appears no reason to believe that the disparity between crimes committed and crimes reported is greater than during 1946, in fact the contrary may be the case. It is possible that during 1940 a greater proportion of crime was reported, but it was a year of increasing economic stress during which comparatively high crime figures might be expected.

Undoubtedly the improved economic conditions are reflected in the striking reduction in thefts as compared with 1946 and energetic investigation rewarded by a considerable improvement in the ratio of convictions has, it is reasonable to suppose, had its effect in reducing this form of crime. Police activity is also indicated by the increase in convictions

for retention of stolen property, 37 as compared with 16 in 1946 and 6 in 1940. Preventive patrols were also stepped up during the year. As many of the thefts were of unidentifiable articles of small value the rate of convictions is high.

But whatever consolation may be drawn from the state of law and order it cannot be said that the state of efficiency of the Force as a whole is yet satisfactory. The "police activity" mentioned above means in fact the activity of a small number of individuals who have carried a far from proportionate share of the work and responsibilities of the Force.

Penal Administration

Prison administration is under the control of a Superintendent of Prisons with headquarters in Kuching. There are four main prisons, situated at Kuching, Simanggang, Sibul and Miri. There are eighteen minor gaols situated in various other parts of the country, but these are now only being used for prisoners serving terms of one month or less; all prisoners serving long sentences are transferred to the divisional prisons.

All prisons are visited monthly by visiting boards comprised of magistrates and unofficial representatives of the various communities. No organisation at present exists for dealing with the after-care of prisoners, but the prison authorities assist discharged prisoners to obtain work. An after-care society is shortly to be formed. Fares are paid by the prison authorities to prisoners returning to their homes.

The majority of the prisoners appear to be happy and contented; mainly, it is suggested, on account of the amount of liberty which is given them by working in outside parties. It affords a chance for a certain amount of self-expression, and the prisoners on the whole do not take undue or unexpected advantage of this fact.

Most prisons are understaffed and the establishment of warders small though it is was never up to full strength. This is due to the poor rate of pay, a position which it is hoped to rectify in 1948.

An attempt is now being made to give a proper training to warders at the Kuching prison, but until the right material is forthcoming, this will be a difficult undertaking.

All the prisons in the country, with the exception of those at Kuching and Sibul, are constructed of a very hard local wood known as "belian." Although old, they are generally

speaking in a good state of repair. The prison at Sibu is the only one of fairly modern design.

The total number of prisoners admitted during 1947 was 629, of whom 622 were males and 7 females. There were 8 executions during the year. The sentences imposed were as follows :—

Under 1 month	...	...	88
1 month and less than 3 months	...	...	310
3 months and less than 6 months	...	...	79
6 months and less than 12 months	...	...	67
12 months and less than 18 months	...	...	19
18 months or over	...	...	66

The age groups of prisoners committed were as set out below :—

Under 16 years of age	...	...	24
16—20 years of age	...	...	94
20—25 years of age	...	...	121
25—50 years of age	...	...	362
Over 50 years of age	...	...	28

Recidivism

At the end of the year there were twenty-one recidivists out of two hundred and five prisoners serving sentences in the Colony. This appears to be an average figure. There are very few confirmed criminals who are continually in and out of gaol.

Juvenile Offenders

During the year arrangements were made to house juvenile offenders at a camp made for them at Rantau Panjang Agricultural Station in the Third Division. Besides this, lads were kept at the Agricultural Department Dairy Farm at Kuching.

Classification of prisoners

As far as possible first offenders and habitual criminals are segregated, but this cannot always be done owing to the type of buildings and the inadequacy of staff.

Spiritual welfare

At Kuching and Sibu representatives of the various denominations visit the gaols weekly. Applications have been

made in the Kuching gaol by four Dayaks to become Christians in the past few months.

General welfare and education

At Sibü various classes run by the prisoners themselves have been a success. These classes were for reading, writing, simple arithmetic, etc. As a result of these classes several prisoners have become literate.

In the Kuching prison classes are held nightly for the illiterates. This is undertaken voluntarily by an officer of the Education Department and a Dayak student teacher. Prisoners are allowed to undertake basket and mat making in their leisure time, the money obtained from the sale of these articles being credited to the prisoner's account. Great interest is taken in the flower and vegetable gardens at the Sibü prison. At Kuching an attempt is also being made to establish a flower garden in addition to the vegetable gardens in the precincts of the prison.

Health and Diet

The general health of the prisoners has been good during the year. Hospital attendants visit the gaols daily. A stock of medicines is kept in the gaols and simple dressings are carried out by the prisoners under expert supervision. There have been no deaths during the year.

Remission

Remission of sentence for good behaviour is granted to prisoners sentenced to imprisonment exceeding one month. The amount of remission granted to prisoners serving up to twelve months is one-sixth and to those serving over one year one-fourth of the sentence. Female prisoners serving over one year may be granted remission of one-third of their sentence.

CHAPTER 10.

Public Utilities

Electricity Supplies

The Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited is responsible for the lighting and power services throughout the Colony. The Company was formed in 1932 to take over the Government supply stations at Kuching, Sibu and Mukah. The Government holds a little over one-half of shares, Messrs. United Engineers Limited of Singapore being the other shareholders and General Managers. Since taking over, the policy of the Company has been a progressive one of modernising the existing stations and installing generating plant in the smaller townships.

When the country was re-occupied by the Allies it was found that two generating sets in Kuching had been removed, the Mukah and Bintulu Stations almost destroyed and that the remaining plant was in a very bad condition due to neglect and lack of maintenance. During 1945-46 the Company was busily engaged on the work of restoring these stations and maintaining a gradually improving standard of supply to the public. Plans were made for extensions of service and orders were placed for plant and materials.

Owing to the tardy delivery of materials and machinery, work on rehabilitation and extensions during the year under review has been slow. Five 25 K.W. generating sets were installed in the smaller townships; a further three are to be installed in the near future.

In Kuching a new 400 K.W. set was partly erected and is awaiting further engine parts and electrical plant, which are not expected to arrive for another six months. The reconditioning of the existing 220 K.W. set was also held up for engine parts but it has been maintained in service, although running uneconomically.

At Miri the lighting supply prior to the war was taken from the Sarawak Oilfields Limited plant. The Sarawak Electricity Supply Company has now installed equipment at Miri and commenced the supply of a restricted service. The

Company plans to install a full supply as soon as the necessary plant can be procured.

The Government has granted a ten year extension of the Company's licences which will now expire in 1967.

Water Supplies

Kuching

The source of supply is at Matang a mountain of 3,000 feet about ten miles west of Kuching. The quality of the water is excellent and does not require treatment. The collection system consists of four diversion dams in mountain streams and one small impounding reservoir which are at a sufficient height to give a gravitational supply to Kuching. The slope of the ground is in general very steep and investigations over a period of years have failed to locate a site for a large impounding reservoir at the required contour level. During heavy rain the valves on the pipes leading from the diversion dams are closed and the supply taken from the impounding reservoir and the service reservoirs in Kuching. The pipeline crosses the Sarawak River by a 700 foot span suspension bridge which was erected for this purpose.

The distribution system consists of thirty miles of pipe. The service reservoirs consist of one 2-million gallon pressed steel tank, two concrete service basins and one reinforced concrete water tower.

During very dry spells the run-off at Matang is insufficient and recourse has to be had to water pumped from two old low level reservoirs in Kuching. This pumped water is chlorinated.

The normal consumption is about one million gallons per day and the number of services connected about 2,400 comprised as follows :—

Fire Hydrants	...	121
Public Stand Pipes	...	159
Private Services	...	1,958
Government Quarters	...	70
Government Services	...	92
		<hr/>
		2,400
		<hr/>

Water meters are fixed to all private services. The charge for water is 45 cents per thousand gallons with a minimum charge of \$1 per month. The ships plying between Singapore and Kuching take large quantities of water in Kuching in view of its quality and low cost—45 cents per ton.

The main pipeline from Matang is a steel pipe which was laid in 1926. This pipe is badly corroded and pitted and was due for replacement in 1942. The new pipes were ordered in 1946, but had not yet been received at the end of 1947.

The two million gallons steel tank which is showing signs of corrosion has, of necessity, been kept in service throughout the year. Part expenditure for the construction of an additional tank has been approved for 1948.

The repair and rehabilitation of existing services and the provision of new services was greatly hampered by the difficulties in obtaining supplies of galvanised pipes and fittings.

Sibu

A new waterworks, which was under construction before the war, was put into partial operation at the beginning of the year. Improvements and additions were made during the year, notably the erection of a high level tank to obviate direct pumping into the mains, and of a temporary additional booster station.

The mode of operation involved pumping from the Rejang River to the purification plant. After purification the water is pumped to a storage tank whence it flows by gravity $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Sibu bazaar.

At the end of the year water was supplied continuously from 7 a.m. to approx. 8.30 p.m. but not all consumers had a continuous supply owing to the inadequate sizes of the distribution mains. It is hoped to improve and extend the system in 1948 so that a 24 hour supply can be maintained.

Mukah

The prewar supply was not satisfactory. The whole area is low-lying and most of the water is brackish. A preliminary survey was made of the site for the proposed new waterworks and pipeline but progress with this scheme is, like many others, seriously handicapped by shortage of engineering staff.

Bintulu

The Bintulu water supply consists of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 6" Asbestos Pressure Pipe from a diversion dam in an upland stream to a 50,000 gallon tank in the town. A further $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 6" asbestos pipe acts as a distributing main. Essential maintenance was carried out during the year but no major reconstruction has been possible.

Miri

The water supply is taken from the Sarawak Oilfields Ltd. water main under prewar arrangements. A subsidiary pump has been installed to supply houses on Tanjong Lobang.

Sarikei and Binatang

The water supply for Sarikei and Binatang has been maintained by the use of a water barge of 36,000 gallons capacity, transporting water during the dry months from Sibu.

The installation of a pipe water supply for these two towns presents many problems. The whole area is low-lying and river and surface water is brackish.

Other Stations

Water piping is still in extremely short supply and it has in most cases only been possible to make improvisations with a view to maintaining service from existing small installations.

CHAPTER 11

Communications

Water

The rivers and sea afford the principal means of communication. Steamship services ply between Kuching and coastal ports and also serve Sibü and other Rejang River ports. In addition numerous powered small craft, mainly Chinese owned, carry passengers and cargo up and down the various rivers. Smaller boats, often driven by outboard motors, make their way far into the interior.

In the early part of the year irregular but sufficient services between Sarawak and Singapore were maintained by the Sarawak Steamship Company and the Straits Steamship Company. At times three or four vessels would call within a period of as many days and then there might be a long wait before the next vessel arrived. By the middle of the year, however, the situation had improved, with regular weekly vessels from Singapore to both Sibü and Kuching.

Ships going from Singapore to and from Miri ceased to call at Kuching, going direct from Singapore to Miri and returning direct to Singapore. The omission of Kuching as a port of call was a serious handicap, there being only a few Chinese launches on the route and one 120 ft. vessel belonging to the Sarawak Steamship Company which went coastwise from Kuching to Miri and Marudi.

Over and above the regular weekly service, vessels called at Kuching and Sibü with rice from Bangkok usually via North Borneo ports. The tonnage of vessels entering and leaving Sarawak from and to foreign ports during the year was 1,047,317 tons and 1,005,997 tons, respectively.

In December, the first ship arrived at Rejang to load timber with limited deck passenger accommodation, which made calls at Hongkong, and Manila. This service is expected to be a monthly one.

Coastal trade and communications were maintained by a fleet of locally built and owned small craft ranging from 15 to 50 tons. Very few of the owners attempt to maintain

regular services but run their vessels where trade or passengers offer. Fairly regular weekly services were however being maintained between Kuching and First, Second and Third Division ports and fortnightly runs to coastal Third and Fourth Division ports. There was no regular communication between Kuching and the Fifth Division. Passengers and goods had either to make their way overland to Miri and contact coastal shipping there, or proceed via Labuan.

There were no regular runs maintained by the Government with the exception of one vessel of 150 tons which maintained a fairly regular service between Kuching and Bintulu, sometimes via Sibu, and supplemented the service maintained by the Sarawak Steamship Company.

Of the total of 26 Government vessels at least five were always under repair. Sixteen were purely Administrative launches run to the requirements of the Residents of the Divisions where they were stationed. Of the remainder, six were supply vessels and when not required for Government work, were chartered out. One small tug and one small powered lighter were stationed at Miri to assist discharge and loading of vessels calling at the port, and two prewar launches which required new engines, were laid up at Kuching.

The most serious shipping casualty during the year was the stranding of the T.S.S. "Matang." This vessel, when on a voyage from Labuan to Kuching, ran ashore on the rocks on Santubong Peninsula during heavy rain. She was refloated the next day but her bottom was so badly holed that she was in danger of sinking in deep water and had to be run ashore on a sandy beach near Buntal. A salvage vessel with full equipment was sent from Singapore and after a fortnight's work, making temporary patches, the "Matang" was refloated and towed to Singapore for repair.

One Sarawak owned vessel, an ex-Japanese wooden craft of 80 tons, broke down at sea midway between Singapore and Rejang. She had been adrift for eight days before news of her reached Kuching and when finally found and towed to Sibu had been adrift for eleven days.

One Chinese junk of about 50 tons was wrecked on Mukah Bar and a couple of smaller coastal launches were lost—one on Igan Bar and one off Miri.



Batang bridging a torrent on the track up the Pelagus Rapids.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

Air

Prior to the Japanese occupation landing grounds suitable for the operation of lighter types of aircraft existed at Kuching and Miri.

On the resumption of Civil Administration the Kuching landing ground, which lies 7 miles to the south of the town, had one metalled strip of approximately 1,000 yards length and 50 yards width, in almost serviceable condition. The remainder of the area was dotted with bomb holes and quite unserviceable. A minimum of work sufficient to maintain this strip to 1,016 yards in length and 35 yards width in serviceable condition, has been carried out during the year, but otherwise no constructional work has been undertaken.

A scheme has been approved for the construction of a runway and necessary buildings for an airport for scheduled air services. The work will be carried out during 1948.

Regular air communication between Singapore and Kuching has been maintained by Sunderland flying boats of the Royal Air Force, using the Sarawak River at Pending as their landing area. Land based aircraft have not been used except for survey flights by Malayan Airways, and the Royal Air Force. On these occasions the aircraft have successfully landed on and taken off from the existing strip at the 7th mile.

Railways

Until the year 1939 a metre gauge railway was operated by the Public Works Department between Kuching and a point 10 miles to the south of the town for the transport of crushed stone from quarries to Kuching. On resumption of Civil Administration the years of neglect had rendered the three steam locomotives useless for further service and the track was in very bad condition.

No repairs or maintenance of the track have been carried out during the year but a new diesel locomotive has been ordered and the track is to be repaired.

Roads and Vehicles

There has never been an extensive road system in the Colony. The main centres of population are not connected by roads and communications between them have been by river and sea transport.

Except in the Kuching area unsurfaced earth roads are the general rule. These connect outlying areas with the centres of population. Light motor vehicles are used on this class of road where possible, but their use is of necessity restricted and upkeep is frequently heavy.

In 1928 construction of a road from Kuching to Simanggang was projected—a distance of approximately 120 miles—and by the outbreak of war 40 miles had been completed, opening up valuable agricultural country.

At the time of re-occupation this road was in an impassable condition and all equipment was missing. Throughout 1946 work was carried out to re-establish the road and this work has been continued during 1947. As a result traffic has been able to use the road to Serian at the 39th mile without restriction throughout the year, even during the latter months when continuous heavy rainfall has been the rule. Trucks up to 3 or 4 tons are in use on this road. The metalling and regrading work is to be continued during 1948 and by the end of the year the road should be ready for surfacing.

Approximate mileage of roads for the whole Colony is 460 classified as follows:—

1. Unimproved earth and non-surfaced	...	197	miles
2. Improved earth, sand, clay, gravel	...	116	„
3. Waterbound Macadam	...	80	„
4. Macadam surface treated and penetration		66	„
5. Cement concrete	...	1	„
		<hr/>	
Total	...	460	„
		<hr/>	

In addition, there are about 250 miles of public paths, maintained by the Public Works Department.

The roads in Kuching are surfaced either with reinforced concrete or bitumen. A limited amount of re-surfacing work was accomplished during the year, but much remains to be done, the bad weather during the last three months of the year having accelerated the deterioration started by neglect during the occupation. Adequate supplies of asphalt are expected during 1948 and this should greatly assist the work of rehabilitation.

In other parts of the country general maintenance work was carried out but no major road construction was under-

taken. Numerous bridges were reconstructed and some old roads cleared and re-opened.

The situation regarding supplies of new motor vehicles improved greatly during the year, and by the end of the year the demand for private vehicles and certain types of commercial vehicles was being met with little delay. The lighter type of commercial vehicle, 29—30 cwt. capacity was still in short supply, and this has caused some inconvenience as the roads generally are not suitable for the heavier $2\frac{1}{2}$ —4 ton types which were readily obtainable.

Post and Telegraphs

There were 36 Post Offices and 19 Wireless Telegraph stations in operation during the year. Postal, telegraph and telephone facilities are extended from time to time to meet the requirements of the administration and the public demand. Post Offices are established at all administrative centres and wireless and telegraph stations at the more important centres and in isolated stations. Where possible outlying districts are linked by line telephone to the nearest Administrative centre. The departmental facilities are made available to the public for private and commercial business.

The frequency and volume of mails increased during the year due to more regular shipping and the recovery of business generally. The parcel post service showed a large increase in the number of parcels handled. Telegraphic traffic also increased considerably.

Telephones

There were twelve telephone exchanges in operation during the year. The total mileage of telephone lines was approximately 617 in aerial and underground routes and 1,550 on open wire routes. Telephone communication was of a poor standard owing to the very old telephone instruments in use. Attempts to obtain replacements for these instruments were unsuccessful.

PUBLIC WORKS

A large part of the expenditure approved for public works in 1947 was spent on rehabilitation and in the construction of new buildings mainly quarters, barracks and offices.

In Kuching one new block of police barracks comprising

ten married quarters was erected whilst five blocks of 6 married quarters consisting of reconstructed buildings were erected at the Police Depot.

Two new blocks of 8 quarters for the accommodation of lepers were completed at the Leper Settlement. A new wireless building of brick and concrete was erected at the Kuching Station. This replaces a building destroyed by bombing at the time of the re-occupation.

New quarters of detached and semi-detached type were built in the General Hospital compound for the accommodation of hospital assistants and a temporary annex to the Government Rest House was provided to give overflow accommodation.

The work of repair and rehabilitation of offices, public buildings, markets and quarters including replacement of electrical installations, progressed satisfactorily during the year.

A new reinforced concrete open market was constructed in Market Street at a cost of \$15,900.

In the Second Division the major work was the rebuilding of the station at Lubok Antu which was destroyed by fire at the time of the re-occupation. Here a new "fort," to be named Fort Arundell, has been constructed. This is a two storey building in concrete providing accommodation on the ground floor for administrative and police offices and on the first floor a Court Room, and living accommodation for the District Officer. In addition to this building, two Junior Service detached quarters, one dispensary, one Native Officer's quarters and two 8 room blocks of police barracks were almost completed at the end of the year.

The works carried out in the Third Division during 1947 were probably greater than has been achieved in any previous year, particularly in the case of buildings, for which the need was most urgent. Competition for labour and materials was keen, due to the large amount of private building being undertaken in the Division, but the contractors proved ingenious and industrious, and the completion of so much construction is largely due to their enterprise. The sawmills proved capable of meeting the abnormal demands for timber, but the quality suffered the usual defects due to the lack of adequate seasoning.

Rehabilitation of Government buildings throughout the Division was carried out on a large scale with improvement most noticeable in the Coast and Sibul districts. The rehabilitation programme will be completed in 1948.

A new Government station was constructed at Song, across the Rejang river from the old site, which has now been abandoned. A Government Office including quarters for visiting officers, Junior Service Quarters and Native Officers' Quarters were handed over to the Administration in December. These were all of timber construction. In addition visiting quarters for Junior Service and police patrols and a Dayak Rest House were under construction. A Customs godown was completed.

A new floating wharf was constructed at Sibul but major repairs to the timber wharves were delayed by a holdup in the supply of suitable timber. At Sarikei a floating pontoon wharf with steel walkway approach, at the site of the concrete wharf which collapsed during the occupation, was constructed. It has proved successful but requires an additional length of pontoon, which will be provided in 1948.

The Fourth Division was badly hit by enemy and Allied action, particularly at Miri and Bintulu. Here again a pressing need has been to provide quarters for government employees and much progress has been made in this direction.

In the Fifth Division activity was mainly concentrated on the reconstruction of neglected buildings and the erection of new buildings. Amongst the new works completed at Limbang were police barracks, Junior Service quarters, Forest Checking Station, Vegetable Market, Pork Market, Boat House, Dayak-Murut Rest House and Padi Store.

Although the full programme of works projected for 1947 was not completed, good progress was made despite the delays and shortages in the supply of materials and equipment. The most serious handicap was the lack of adequate technical staff. Every effort was made to remedy this, but without success. All branches of the existing staff have cheerfully accepted the extra burden imposed on them, and are to be complimented on the results achieved. There is a large programme to be tackled in 1948 and it is hoped that some additional technical staff will then be available.

CHAPTER 12

Science and Arts

The Museum

The *Sarawak Gazette* of 26th March, 1878, gave notice that "His Highness the Rajah intends on a future day to establish a museum for all specimens of interest in this country, for which a suitable building will be constructed at Kuching by the Government." "Arms, boats, cloths, woods, horns and skulls of deer, and other animals, old fashioned gold work, old china or pottery, paddles, minerals, fibres, oil, carvings, ornaments and the relics of any superstition, either in wood or stone" were mentioned as a guide to the type of collection required.

In a notice dated 27th May, 1878, R. V. Awdry, Private Secretary to the Rajah, was authorised to receive contributions for the proposed Museum. The first items, sent by Mr. C. C. de Crespigny from Mukah, were acknowledged on 5th June, 1878, but the scheme more or less remained in abeyance.

The collections were first housed in the Astana, and later in a room in the Clock Tower in the Government building.

The idea was revived again towards the end of 1886, when it was decided to purchase H. Brooke-Low's collection to form a nucleus for the museum. This was placed in a temporary building over the market place, and was opened to the public by the Rajah on 30th October, 1886. The present building was begun in 1889 and opened on 4th August, 1891. Since then the building has been added to, improved and renovated, the last important building operations taking place in 1940.

Since its inception there have been eight full-time curators, although there have been times during wars and for other reasons when the supervision of the Museum, much to its detriment, was perforce in the hands of administrative officers as an additional duty.

It is worth noting that for most of the time of the Japanese occupation of Kuching the Museum was under the



A Murut round dance. An effigy of a crocodile lies in the middle of the circle.

direction of a sympathetic Japanese curator. For that reason on the re-occupation by the Allied Forces it was found that the Museum had suffered very little damage and remarkably little looting. With the help of the Commander of the Australian Military Forces a number of gold ornaments were recovered in Bau, Upper Sarawak, and in spite of the neglect occasioned by three and a half years of war the Museum was opened to the public within a few days of the relief of the town.

The building is divided into two floors. On the ground floor are the zoological collections and on the upper floor the ethnological collections.

The war, and the subsequent changes of Government have not made it possible for many new collections to be made yet, but it is expected that the Curator who at the close of the year was on an expedition in the interior will bring back with him a large and valuable collection of articles principally connected with the Kelabits in the far-away Bareo country.

It is noticeable that of late the Museum has been attracting more visitors, especially among younger people, than before. Arrangements are being made to conduct parties of school children round the Museum.

Literature

An issue of the Sarawak Museum Journal, stopped since 1941, was in the course of preparation at the end of the year.

The Sarawak Government Library, which is attached to the Museum, suffered some serious losses during the war, a number of valuable and rare books on Sarawak being lost. Some of these have now been replaced. The library as a whole is not of great value and steps are being taken to replenish it and bring it up to date.

Socio-Economic Survey

Dr. Edmund Leach visited Sarawak from June to October, 1947. During this period he travelled extensively throughout the country making plans for a comprehensive Socio-Economic Survey which will follow later.

PART III

CHAPTER 1

Geography

General description

The Colony of Sarawak consists of a coastal strip some 450 miles long and varying from 40 to 120 miles in depth on the north-west coast of the island of Borneo, and has an area of some 50,000 square miles.

A broken range of mountains runs south-west through the middle of the island. This range, with others parallel and at right angles to it, determines the courses of the many rivers.

Sarawak lies between this range and the sea, on its north-west side. The southern border, with Dutch West Borneo, is formed by another range of mountains running westerly from about the centre of the main range.

In general, the country is divided into three main types. Firstly, an alluvial and swampy coastal plain in which isolated mountains and mountain groups rise to 2,000 feet or more, then rolling country of yellow sandy clay intersected by ranges of mountains and finally a mountainous area in the interior.

The coast is generally flat and low-lying with heavy vegetation and flat sandy or mud beaches. In a few places, hills come down to the sea forming coastal cliffs.

Most of the mountains are sandstone, but there are extrusions of limestone appearing as low pinnacles 10-15 feet high, or as hills with sheer sides, weathered and crumbling, rising up to 1,500 feet, with scrub on top.

Vegetation on the mountains is generally virgin forest, except near the main rivers where the forest has been cleared for rice cultivation and secondary growth has sprung up.

The greater part of the country is under forest, with areas of rubber or sago plantations in the neighbourhood of

the government stations and along the numerous rivers and of coconuts along the coast.

The few islands off the coast are small and of little importance. Roads are few, and travel is mainly by sea and river. The climate is warm and humid, day temperatures averaging 85°F. Annual rainfall varies from 100 to 200 inches.

Vegetation

Moss forest occurs on the tops of hills over 4,500 feet, that is, on the peaks in the north-east area, such as Dulit and Mulu.

Tropical rain forest, with trees of the hill varieties (as distinct from swamp varieties) covers the greater part of the territory, except for the swamp areas near the coast and the cultivated areas.

Mangrove occurs extensively near the mouths of the Sarawak and Rejang Rivers.

Nipah Palm lines the banks of most rivers from the mouths up to the edge of the swampy area.

Rivers

The drainage system is controlled by the border range, and the central secondary range, both running NE-SW, decreasing in elevation, and by the ridges at right-angles to these two.

The Rejang and Sarawak Rivers are navigable for ocean-going ships for 160 and 22 miles respectively measured along the rivers. Others are navigable by coastal steamers, and others by launches. Most of the rivers have shallow bars which limit the size of vessels entering.

In their lower courses the banks and bottoms of the rivers are generally of a stiff, glutinous mud. For varying distances from the mouths the river-bank vegetation is usually mangrove, and farther up nipah. As the coastal swamps are left behind the river banks rise above the normal High Water Level, and in the Trusan, Limbang, Baram and Rejang Rivers, gorges and dangerous rapids occur well below the sources.

Climate and Meteorological

The season October to March is, in general, the season of heavy rains, strong winds and high seas, with occasional



Kuching waterfront as it is to-day. Kuching the capital of Sarawak stands on the Sarawak river some 18 miles from the sea.



periods of calm. It is the season of the North-East Monsoon. Except for a transitional month at each end, the remainder of the year has less rainfall, with occasional droughts lasting up to three weeks, and with clear skies.

Annual rainfall varies from under 100 inches near the coast away from mountains to over 200 inches inland in the neighbourhood of mountains. In the coastal area Miri to Labuan, most of the rain falls between midnight and dawn. The year's rainfall at Kuching was 132.81 inches. The maximum monthly rainfall was 23.81 inches and minimum 3.26. The effect of rainfall is most felt in the head-waters of the rivers, where the rivers may rise by as much as 50 feet above their normal level.

Prevailing winds are from the north and north-east in the season October-March, the wet season, where there is generally a swell from north-east, and from the south-west for the remainder of the year. The worst storms are usually in December and March.

KUCHING the capital of Sarawak stands on the Sarawak river some 18 miles from the sea. It is an attractively laid out town with a population estimated at approximately 38,000. The trading community is almost entirely composed of Chinese who live in the town proper which is built of brick usually plastered and colour-washed and with roofs of tile. Within the town limits are large Malay villages or suburbs. The Governor's residence is the Astana on the north (left) bank of the river and there also may be found Fort Margherita the headquarters of the Sarawak Constabulary, a large Malay riverside Kampong and several residential bungalows.

The town, the main Government offices, the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals and Schools, the wharves, warehouses and dockyard are found on the South bank of the river. The town area is administered by a Municipal Board.

SIBU the second town of Sarawak is situated some 80 miles up the Rejang river and is a natural river anchorage. The town itself, together with Government offices, bazaar, churches, schools, wharves and warehouses lies on a small flat island and is subject at times to floods. The population of the town of Sibü is approximately 10,000 and it is the headquarters of the Resident of the Third Division.

MIRI, the headquarters of the Resident of the Fourth Division, is situated on the coast some 15 miles from the mouth of the Baram river and to the South-west of that river. Miri owes its existence to the Sarawak Oilfields and has a population of approximately 9,000. It suffered severe damage as a result of the war, the town proper being almost entirely destroyed, and still presents a sorry aspect though reconstruction is taking place. The bazaar, wharves, hospital and oil company offices lay along the narrow flat strip of land between the sea and the steep slopes about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles inland. The Government residential area is at Tanjong Lobang some 2 miles from the town.

Other centres of population are Limbang (Headquarters of Fifth Division), Simanggang (Headquarters of Second Division), Sarikei, Binatang, Mukah and Bintulu. All are small settlements of a few thousand persons together with the usual bazaar, Government offices and quarters, and wharfage facilities.

CHAPTER 2

History

Sarawak though known by name through the visits of such explorers as Pigafetta to Brunei in 1521 (and of Gorge de Menezes in 1526 and Gomaro Pereir in 1530) and by an early map of the East Indies by Mercator, begins its history as an integral State from the first landing of James Brooke in August, 1839.

It was then a dependency of the Brunei Sultanate. Though possessed of a measure of independence, evidence which exists to-day shows how frequently throughout its history it had been engulfed by outside invaders.

Traces of early Chinese occupation are to be found, and relics of the Hindu Javan invasion which made Brunei a vassal of the Majapahit Empire can still be identified among the Land Dayaks. The Islamic religion came to the Malays through the Arabs, and later still the Sea Dayak or Iban arrived, possibly from Sumatra.

When James Brooke landed, Makota the Sultan's representative had goaded and oppressed both Malays and Land Dayaks into revolt, and the Sultan had sent his uncle Rajah Muda Hassim, the Bendahara of Brunei, to pacify the country. The insurgents were led by Datu Patinggi Ali. The story of how James Brooke returned in 1840, restored order to a troubled country, and eventually deposed Makota from the Governorship is well known. He was publicly installed in 1840 as Rajah of the territory from Cape Datu to the Samarahan River. This however is but a small part of the total area which was later contained within the State of Sarawak.

The story of the next few years is one of continuous action to put an end to piracy and headhunting, often with the assistance of Her Majesty's ships, which performed almost incredible feats of navigation and endurance.

It is a story of high adventure, financial difficulty, political persecution at home by the Radical party, followed by complete vindication and success. The death of the first

Rajah in 1868 left behind a country paternally governed with a solid foundation of mutual trust and affection between Ruler and ruled.

Charles Brooke was proclaimed Rajah on August 3rd 1868. Though outbursts of Dayak headhunting were still fairly frequent, the country was beginning to prosper and the second Rajah continued to enlarge his territory, and in 1887 was recognized as an independent Ruler by the British Government.

The first Rajah pioneered, subdued, and pacified. The second Rajah built upon his uncle's foundation with such conspicuous success that between 1870 and 1917 the revenue rose from \$122,842 to \$1,705,292 and the expenditure from \$126,161 to \$1,359,746. The public debt was wiped out and a considerable surplus was built up. In 1870 imports were valued at \$1,494,241 and exports at \$1,328,963. In 1917 imports totalled \$4,999,320, and exports \$6,283,071. Roads had been constructed, piped water supplies laid down and a dry dock opened in Kuching. There were telephones, and the wireless telegraph was opened to international traffic.

The third Rajah, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke succeeded in 1917, and progress continued in all spheres. Headhunting as a result of tireless efforts was reduced to sporadic proportions, revenue increased, enhanced expenditure resulted in improved medical and educational services, and in 1941 the State was in a sound economic position with a large sum of money in reserve. As a Centenary gesture the Rajah enacted a new constitution, which abrogated the absolute powers of the Rajah and put the people's feet on the first stage of the road to democratic independence.

Then came the Japanese avalanche and years of oppression, misery, hunger, sickness, from which Sarawak at last emerged on September 11th, 1945, with the arrival of the Australian Forces.

Cynical and callous neglect and the ruthless subordination of the people to the whims of the Japanese displayed their results on all sides. Social services and communications had been disrupted, education was almost non-existent, health precautions were ignored, and sickness and malnutrition were spread abroad in the land. There was an almost complete lack of medicines with which to treat the prevailing diseases, most of the people were in rags and their morale was deplorable.

The Military Administration worked hard, but it was evident to the Rajah that greater resources, and more technical and scientific experience were needed to restore to Sarawak even a shred of its former prosperity. He therefore decided that the time had come to hand the country over to the care of the British Crown and a Bill to effect this was introduced into the Council Negri in May, 1946, and passed by a small majority. By an Order in Council the State became a British Colony on 1st July, 1946.

The Colony is making steady progress towards recovery from the effects of the war and enemy occupation. The various Departments of Government are being strengthened and re-organised with a view to providing the community with the higher standard of social and other services required by modern conditions. Measures have been initiated to develop the country's natural resources, diversify its economy and improve the standard of living of its people. The first steps now being taken on the road that leads to self-government are detailed in the following Chapter.

CHAPTER 3

Administration

After one hundred years of autocratic rule by the three Brooke Rajahs, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke in 1941 divested himself of his autocratic authority and granted a constitution to Sarawak.

This constitution granted legislative and financial jurisdiction to the Council Negri and executive authority to the Supreme Council. The Council Negri was first established in 1867 but was then merely a body of European and Malay officials who met triennially under the chairmanship of the Rajah to hear a report on the events and progress since the last meeting.

The Supreme Council was also a long established body but had little actual responsibility and authority prior to the setting-up of the Constitution. A Committee of Administration had for some time past been the real government of the country. It was an advisory body on whose advice the Rajah usually acted.

On the 1st of July, 1946, Sarawak became a British Colony. By Letters Patent the Supreme Council and the Council Negri retained the authority granted to these bodies in 1941.

Each native community has its own code of customary law which is observed as part of the law of Sarawak. Native Chieftains and village headmen have powers under these codes to impose small fines in matters connected with local custom. In all cases appeal lies to a Magistrate's Court.

The Malay code of laws known as the Undang Undang is based on Islamic law and is administered by Malay officials, though here also an appeal lies to a Court.

Sarawak is divided into five Divisions, each in charge of a Resident. Each Division is subdivided into a number of Districts, administered by District Officers, and most of the Districts into small areas or sub-stations each in charge of a member of the Native Officers' Service. Each Resident is



Maloh mother and child in festival costume. There are two small Maloh communities of silversmiths on the Upper Rejang but they are immigrants from the Kapuas River in Dutch Borneo.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

a First Class Magistrate with full legal powers. The District Officers are Second Class Magistrates, the Senior Native Officers Third Class and the more Junior Fourth Class Magistrates. As far as is practicable, it is the policy of the Government to free Residents and District Officers, from as much routine office work as possible in order that they may tour their areas and maintain the close contact with the people which has always been the key-note of the administration. Native Administration has in the past been of the direct type, with village headmen or chiefs of village groups responsible to European and Malay Officers.

Before the war however the Native Administration Order was published as an enabling ordinance to allow the gradual introduction of the people themselves into the administration of their own affairs. This order envisaged the setting up of village committees to replace the individual chiefs but the first experiment on these lines was unsuccessful owing to the outbreak of war and the impossibility of providing adequate supervision.

In 1947 a scheme was drawn up for the development of Local Government through Native Authorities with their own Native Treasuries. Each Native Authority will be responsible for the management of its own Native Treasury and will employ one or more competent individuals, preferably local men of the same racial origin, to do the accounting and clerical work. The main items of expenditure to be met by the Native Treasuries will be the salaries, allowances, uniforms, etc., of the Native Authorities and village headmen and of any clerical, treasury or other staff employed by the Native Authority. The Native Authority will also be responsible for the primary vernacular schools in its area. Most of these items of expenditure are at present met from the revenues of the Colony and included in the Estimates of Expenditure.

The normal revenues of a Native Treasury will consist of the tax paid by the natives under the jurisdiction of the Native Authority concerned, of the fines, and fees of the Native Courts and of such other items as may be approved by Government. It will be necessary, however, to supplement its revenues by an annual grant from the Central Government in the early stages.

At the end of the year five Native Authorities had been established and were ready to function. District and Divisional Advisory Councils have also been established on as representative a basis as possible throughout the Colony in order to provide a recognised and ready means of consulting the people and enabling them through their representatives to express their views on all matters affecting their welfare and progress. The function of these Councils is at present purely advisory and they have no statutory authority; they will provide the training ground for inter-racial co-operation.

Racial representation on these Councils is kept roughly approximate to the strength of the racial elements in the District or Division and every effort is made to see that all races are represented. Members are appointed by the Government but are for the most part selected for appointment by means of a system of election.

The scheme, if found by experiment to be practicable and acceptable, will provide a network of elected and racially representative local authorities in each District vested by statute with limited executive and financial powers. The local authorities will elect representatives to an inter-racial District Advisory Council, where they will be able to represent the views of the people to the District Officer representing the central Government. The District Council will elect an appropriate number of its members to the Divisional Council, from which in its turn will in due course be elected the unofficial members on the central legislative body, the Council Negri. In course of time, as better standards of education and living permit, a wider extension of the franchise will no doubt be possible.



The wife of a Chinese rubber planter at work in her kitchen.
Overhead hang smoked sheets of rubber.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

CHAPTER 4

Weights and Measures

The standard weights and measures recognised under the Laws of the Colony are the Imperial yard, the Imperial pound and the Imperial gallon.

Certain local customary weights and measures having the values set out below are also lawful :—

1 Tahl	=	1 1/3 ozs.
1 Kati (16 tahils)	=	1 1/3 lbs.
1 Pikul (100 katis)	=	133 1/3 lbs.
1 Koyan (40 pikuls)	=	5333 1/3 lbs.
1 Chhun	=	1.19/40 inches.
10 Chhuns	=	1 Chhek = 14 3/4 inches.
1 Panchang	=	108 stacked cubic feet.

CHAPTER 5

Newspapers and Periodicals

The Sarawak Tribune, (Daily) (English)

The Kuching Daily News (Daily) (Chinese)

The Chung Hua Journal (Daily) (Chinese)

The Current Critic (Bi-weekly) (Chinese)

The Sarawak Gazette (Monthly) (English).

CHAPTER 6

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Official Publications

- The Colonial Office List
- Civil Service List (1941)
- Government Gazette (twice monthly)
- Proceedings of Council Negri (twice yearly)
- Departmental Annual Reports
- Sarawak Museum Journal
- Report of the Borneo Salaries Commission, 1947

Other Publications of interest

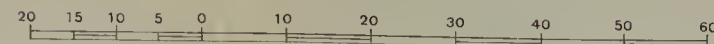
- The Life of Sir James Brooke—Spencer St. John.
- Seventeen Years among the Sea Dyaks of Borneo—Gomes (Missionary).
- Letters from Sarawak (Descriptive)—Mrs. McDougall (wife of 1st Bishop).
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Low's Sarawak—Hugh Low.

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SARAWAK

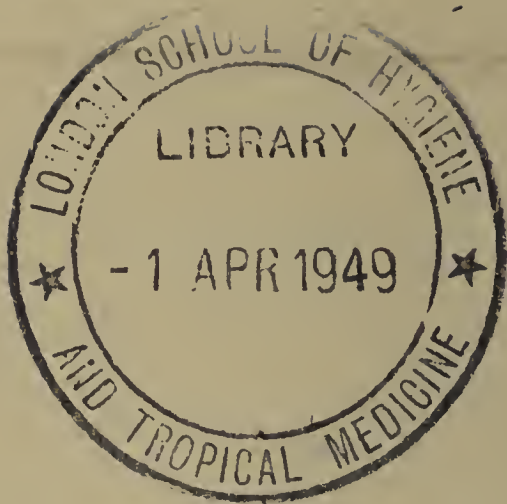
Scale of Statute Miles



REFERENCE

- Divisional Headquarters
- District
- Other Places
- Wireless Stations
- Roads





COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

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